Defying terrorism threat, Gloria off to Japan

STORY ON PAGE A2

Filipinos survive towering infernos

BY RUFINO GONZALES II,
CARLA GOMEZ AND JENNIE ILUSTRE
PDI Correspondents

NEW YORK CITY—There were Filipinos working in almost every office at the 110-story World Trade Center (WTC), according to Negrense Marie Therese Lacson, 22, who

FILIPINO/ A6

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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KAILANGAN ANG WORLD DAY OF PRAYER!

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(DFA HOTLINES: Filipinos with relatives in Washington, New York, may call 834-3333, 4940, 4997 and 4930.)

THE WORLD grieves with Americans. In Iowa, mourning viewers watch on TV the terrors unfold (at left). Alice Hoglan (center), mother of passenger, Mark Bingham, on one of the planes that crashed outside Pittsburgh, who phoned her to say that his flight had been hijacked and that he loved her.

AFP/AP

'Final numbers will be more than we can bear'

Little acts of heroism sustain US

NEW YORK—Rescuers began digging into the World Trade Center's smoking rubble Tuesday night, looking for casualties whose number, said a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, "will be more than we can bear."

"It is unimaginable, devastating, unspeakable carnage," said firefighter Scott O'Grady. "To say it looks like a war zone and to tell you about bodies lying in the street and blood and steel beams blocking roads would not begin to describe what it's like. It's horrible."

Two hundred sixty-five of his colleagues are dead; 300 missing.

Shortly after 7 p.m. (7 a.m. Wednesday, Manila time), crews began heading into ground zero of the early-morning terrorist attack to search for survivors and recover bodies. By then, all that remained of the glass-and-steel complex's twin 110-story towers was a pile of rubble and twisted steel that stood barely two stories high, leaving a huge gap in the city skyline.

New York Gov. George Pataki mobilized the National Guard to help, and hundreds of volunteers and medical workers converged on triage centers, offering services and blood.

Cranes 36 meters tall and bulldozers were brought in to clear the

FINAL/ A21

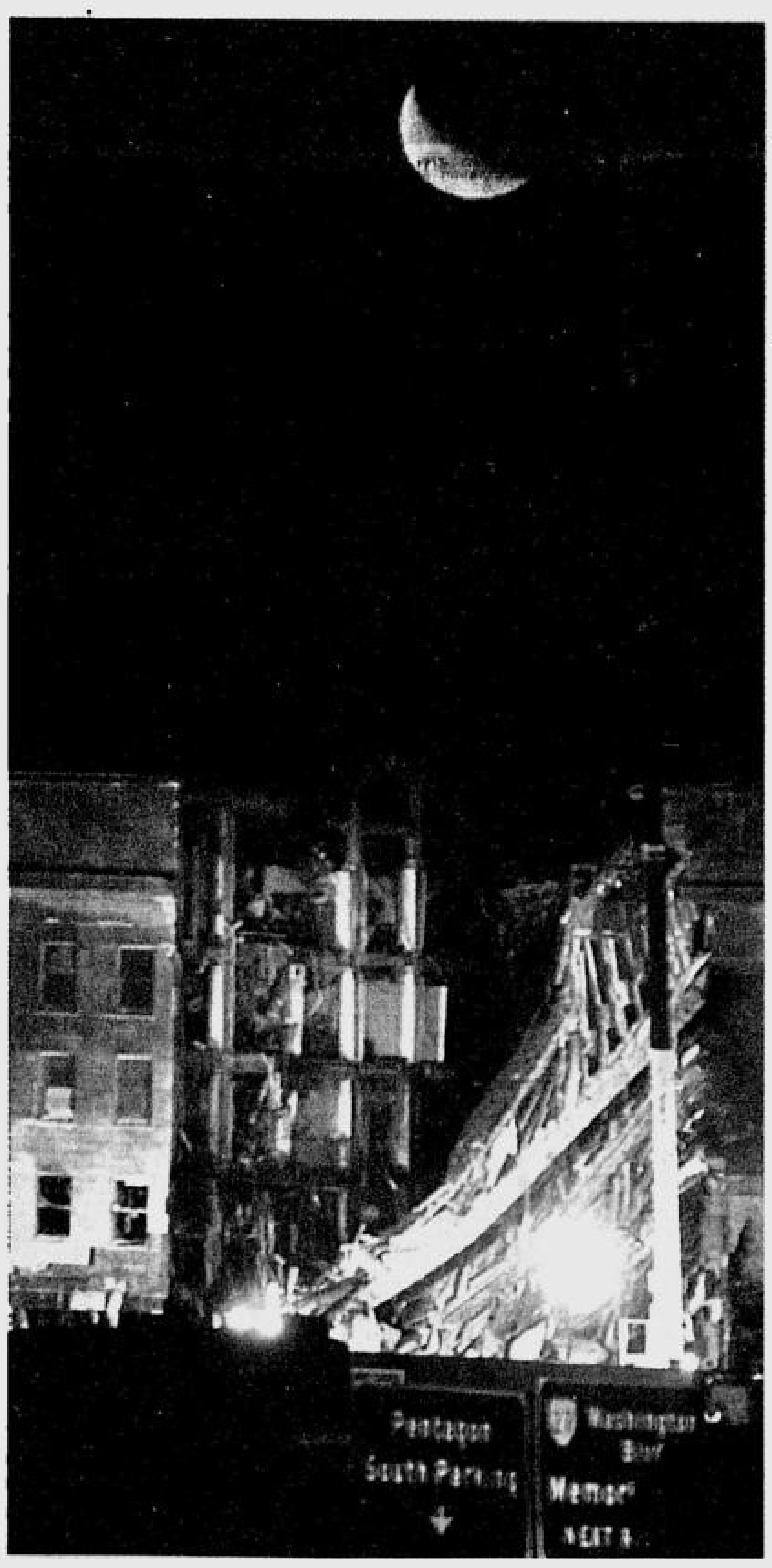
Baghdad rejoices over US suffering

LONDON—Not everyone mourned the terrorist attacks on American soil. In the Middle East, there were scattered celebrations at the prospect of a superpower in distress.

Saddam Hussein's Iraq, America's sworn enemy since the 1991 Gulf War, said Wednesday that the United States deserved the attacks as the "fruit of its crimes against humanity."

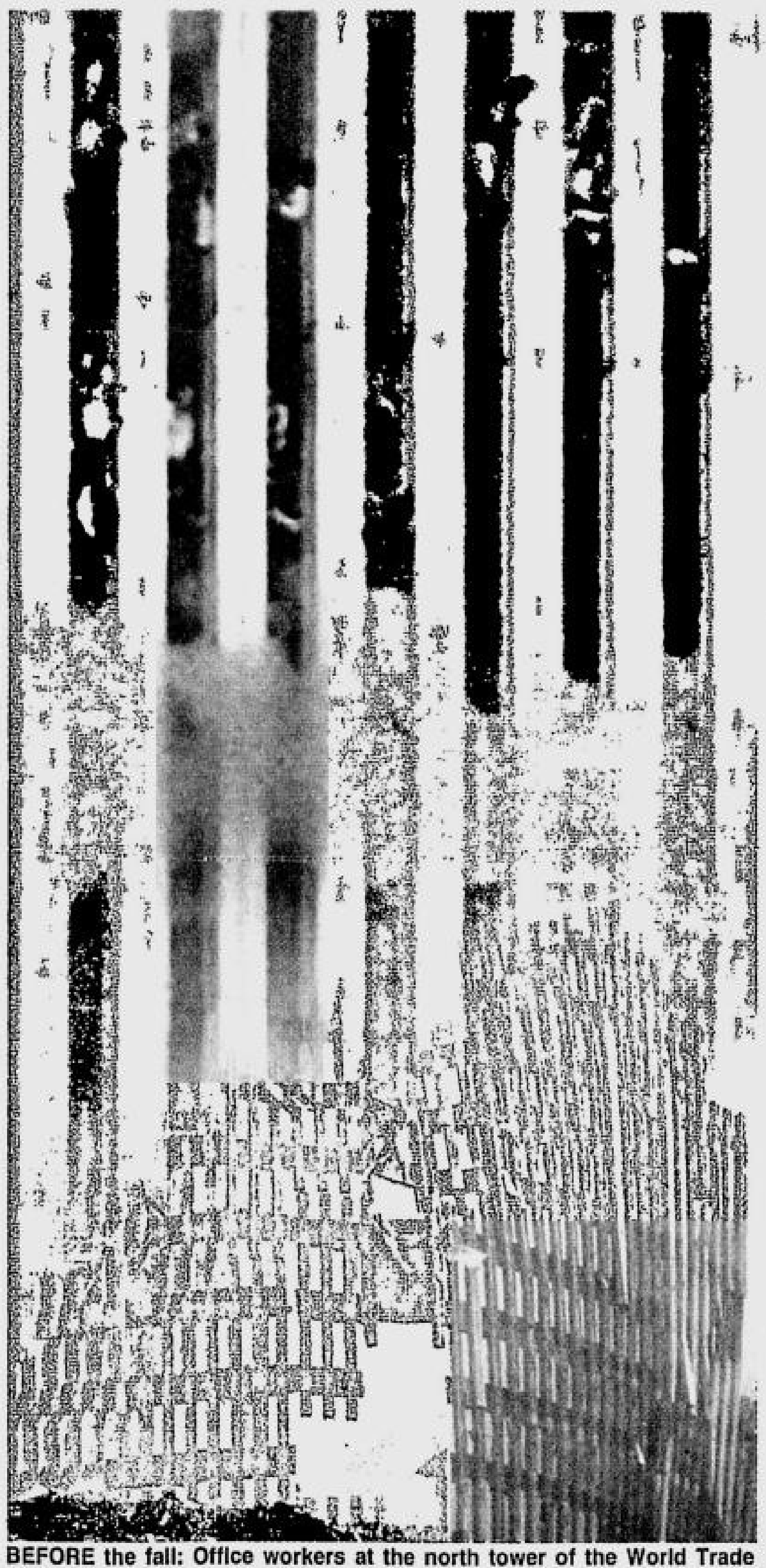
In the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians celebrated, chanting

BAGHDAD/ A6



SURREAL landscape: The wreckage of the Pentagon, the seat of American military might.

AFP



BEFORE the fall: Office workers at the north tower of the World Trade Center trying to get out or leaping to their deaths. Shortly after this photo was taken, this tower fell.

REUTERS

US focuses investigation on Osama bin Laden

WASHINGTON—US officials on Tuesday began piecing together a case linking America's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, to the world's worst ever act of terrorism, as the Saudi millionaire reportedly "thanked Almighty Allah" for the strikes but denied responsibility for them.

"This looks like the signature of Osama bin Laden," US Sen. Orrin Hatch, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, was quoted as saying in a CNN online report.

He added: "We're going to find out who did this and we're going after the bastards."

Within hours of Tuesday's attacks, US law enforcement officials were turning their gaze southeast to possible Bin Laden links in the "Sunshine State" of Florida.

At first US officials said there was a "very good indication" that Bin Laden had masterminded the sophisticated attacks. By the end of the day, they were saying that they were "confident" that his network is the only group capable of the sort of coordinated terrorist assault

US/ A21

Calls from the skies leave clues

FROM out of the sky came the voices—speaking words of love, warning of a great loss to come. And then silence.

From the clues left behind by those harrowing calls, investigators are trying to reconstruct the last moments of the lives of those who perished on the two American Airlines and two United Airlines jets that were hijacked Tuesday.

Sobbing, flight attendant CeeCee Lyles called her husband at home in Fort Myers, Florida, on her cellphone, said her aunt, Mareya Schneider.

"She called him and let him know how much she loved him and the boys," Schneider said.

People screamed in the background. Lyles said "we've been hijacked" and the phone went dead, Schneider said. The plane she was on crashed south of Pittsburgh.

The phone rang at Alice Hoglan's home just before dawn in San Francisco Tuesday morning. It was her son, Mark Bingham, 31, on that same jet, United Airlines Flight 93.

"Hi Mom . . . I love you very much," he told her. "I'm calling you from the plane. We've been taken over. There are three men that say they have a bomb."

Others called from jets that crashed into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Barbara Olson, a conservative commentator and the wife of US

CALLS/ A20

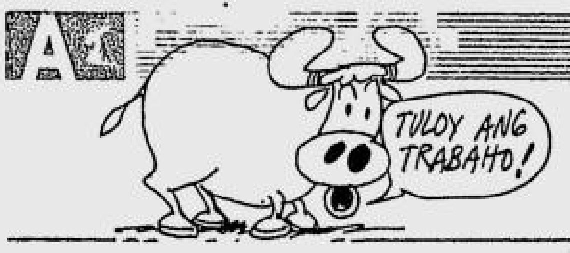
Terror plot to use planes exposed in RP

BY ALCUIN PAPA
AND DAVE VERIDIANO

A PLAN to hijack US commercial planes and slam these into targets like the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley, Virginia, was first uncovered in Manila in 1995 after police arrested four suspects in a plot to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

Ramzi Zhmed Yousef, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for masterminding the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, incorporated the plan in "Operation Bojinka (loud explosion)," Abdul Hakim Murad revealed during his tactical interrogation.

TERROR/ A6


TULOY ANG TRABAHO!

DEFYING TERROR THREAT

Gloria off to Japan

By Stella O. Gonzales and Juliet L. Javellana

TOKYO (via PLDT)—The official working visit here of President Macapagal-Arroyo was almost cancelled in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington on Tuesday.

The President decided to push through with the visit, however, as an act of defiance to organized terrorism.

"Every act of normalcy helps defeat the dark forces of evil that threaten our civilization," Ms Macapagal said before leaving at 3 p.m. yesterday in a heavily secured Philippine Airlines flight for Tokyo. She will be away for four days.

Her 14-member official delegation included, besides husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and daughter Luli, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas and Senators Teresa Aquino-Oreta and John Osmeña.

Caretaker

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. was designated government caretaker along with a committee headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The President said the Philippines must "do our share to help humanity's effort to crush the forces of blind fanaticism and heartless violence."

She said she had briefly considered canceling the visit, "but if we allow terror to paralyze us, to disrupt our work and to disturb our lives, we should have yielded to the intent of its perpetrators."

Ms Macapagal said she had written US President George Bush to express the condolences of the Filipino people for the "horrific terrorist attacks" and to "offer whatever support we might be able to muster to deal with this tragedy and mutually win this war against organized terrorism."

She told Bush she had ordered security authorities to immediately secure all US facilities in the Philippines and spare no effort in protecting all US nationals.

Half-staff

Before her departure, Ms Macapagal ordered Philippine flags flown at half-mast in mourning for the US citizens and foreigners killed in the attacks and placed the military, police and law enforcement agencies in the country on full alert.

She also ordered heightened security in key installations and the US Embassy. Airport and immigration officials were instructed to ensure that people with links to terrorism would not be able to slip into the country.

She also ordered the Philippine Embassy in Washington and the consulate in New York to set up 24-hour centers to help Filipinos who may have been victimized in the attacks.

She also ordered the foreign affairs department to set up 24-hour hotlines here to enable Filipinos to check on the condition of their relatives in the United States.

Japan went on full alert on Tuesday night following the attack. US military installations in the country also immediately went on alert and police forces stepped up patrols around the bases and the US Embassy in Minato Ward here in Tokyo.

Japan hosts several US bases, including the Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo and in Okinawa.

Tokyo is also very much concerned about the safety of its nationals working at the World Trade Center. There are 31 subsidiaries of Japanese corporations holding office at the center.

Japanese investments

Siazon said Ms Macapagal and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi would likely discuss the incident during their bilateral talks today.

The main purpose of the visit is to convince Japanese businessmen that the Philippines is once again ready to receive Japanese investments.

She is also expected to assure Koizumi of the Philippines' improved capacity to deliver official development assistance programs, among other national and international concerns.

Filipino workers here said they hoped Ms Macapagal would also find time for a more mundane matter affecting many of the 176,000 Filipinos in Japan. They want more efficient consular services at the Philippine Embassy in the Ropponggi district here.

In particular, they wished the embassy would hire more people to assist in passport renewals. They said they waste too much time working on their passports in the embassy.

A factory worker from Chiba prefecture, who has been working in Japan for 13 years, said some Filipinos who live in rural Japan travel up to six hours just to get to the Tokyo Embassy.

"Some are even told to return another day because they lack the necessary documents," said one Filipina who was interviewed as she emerged from the embassy building.

Three other Filipinas who were waiting in the embassy's consular section expressed much the same sentiment.

The consular section is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Series of meetings

The President held a series of meetings, starting at 11 p.m. on Tuesday, or two hours after the first of the two World Trade Center towers was attacked.

She met with the Cabinet oversight committee up to 2 a.m. to discuss and analyze the attacks.

At 7 a.m. yesterday, she met with economic managers to assess the economic impact of the attacks. She decided that stock and foreign exchange trading should continue even if Malaysia and Taiwan closed their markets.

The President asked Energy Secretary Vince Perez, the most senior official present in the meetings, to meet with the country's business leaders to allay their fears.

She also met with members of the National Security Council and select Cabinet officials to coordinate preemptive security measures.

Tiglao said the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf would continue. People with known links to suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden have been under surveillance for the past two to three months, he said.

Can't refuse

Guingona said the President "really wanted to stay because she feels she could do more if she's here" but was told that Koizumi wanted her to push through with the visit.

"Under that situation, she could not refuse anymore," Guingona said.

The Philippine ambassador to Japan, Domingo Siazon Jr. said Koizumi had cancelled all his appointments except that of her visit.

The President said she had to pursue her Japan trip because Japan is the country's biggest source of development assistance, its second largest trading and investment partner and the source of tourism income and host to 240,000 Filipino workers.

She recalled having met Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko when they were still Crown Prince and Princess and were state guests of her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, in 1962.

MALACAÑANG flag flies at half-staff. EDWIN BACASMAS

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OPTIMISM IN FACE OF TERRORISM

RP economy resilient–GMA

By J. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed optimism that the country's economy was resilient enough to withstand the devastating effects of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

The President made that remark as the Philippine stock market and foreign exchange trading opened yesterday even as neighbors Malaysia and Taiwan closed theirs.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez also allayed fears of a fuel shortage or increase in oil prices and basic commodities. He said oil companies have assured him that oil stocks are good for at least four weeks, which he said would be enough until the situation stabilizes in the next one to two weeks.

He said Petron and Shell companies have assured him that they will keep oil prices at current levels.

Ms Macapagal left the country at 3 p.m. for her four-day working visit to Japan, saying to cancel it would be yielding to the intent of terrorists.

She said she met with economic managers to see if the economy can deal with the attacks at the New York financial center, where fund managers and clearing houses for dollar exchanges hold office.

'Apprehension'

"They assured me that despite the apprehension in the world market due to the attack in the New York financial center, our market and our economy remains resilient," the President said in her departure speech.

The peso, she said, improved in yesterday's trading and the Phisix went down "only very slightly, performing better than some of the major exchanges in the world today."

In a news briefing at Malacañang after the President left, Perez said the Philippine stock market fared better than its neighbors, falling by 3 percent.

Perez said Indonesia's fell by 4 percent, Singapore by 8 percent, Hong Kong by 9.2 percent, Japan's Nikkei by 6.6 percent, Australia by 4 percent, New Zealand by 4.6 percent and Korea by 12 percent.

"Initially there were a lot of fears that the economic impact immediately would be very adverse but so far the decision was undertaken to let the stock market open even as Malaysia and Taiwan closed down their markets," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a news briefing in the morning.

Markets open

"The President also decided not to stop the forex trading system and so far it's not too bad. The stock market has fallen only about 3 percent compared to other markets, which have fallen by 6 to 8 percent. The peso seems to be relatively unaffected," Tiglao said.

He said the consensus was reached after the President met with her economic managers about the impact of the massive and deadly attack in New York and Washington.

Tiglao said most of the economic managers were abroad and they were represented in the meeting by their undersecretaries.

Tiglao said officials were hoping the attacks would not spur a global recession.

"We hope not. One good thing is that the resolve of the US to deal with terrorism seems to be there definitely and the immediate impact of the closing of the New York financial center hasn't been that bad. But for our part we think that our focus on agricultural modernization and on local economy would still make us resilient even in the face of global recession," Tiglao said.

Perez said the rise in oil prices in the US was "normal in a crisis."

Premature

But he said he is not expecting prices of oil and commodities in the Philippines to likewise increase.

"I think it's too early to say what the long-term effect of this (would be on us). I think it's very premature to make any judgment or assessment. First we still don't know who are the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks. And if we know who they are, we don't know what the US retaliatory actions will be so I think it's highly premature to speculate that an oil exporting country will be bombed and oil prices, (here would go up)," Perez said.

Perez said he met with officials of oil companies and was assured that there are enough supply of oil.

"The good news is that we have at least four weeks of inventory. The key word is 'at least.' Actual inventory stock is a confidential proprietary information because it affects supply and demand. I know it's a lot more than that but the key word I'm giving you is four weeks so we have adequate supply," Perez said.

Perez said crude prices rose from $24.88 to $26.13 per barrel. He said the $1 per barrel increase was "typical in a crisis."

He said the bleep in crude prices is expected to normalize in one to two weeks. Thus, he said, an oil inventory of four weeks would be enough.

No price hikes, oil firms vow

By R. Domingo

THE RECENT terrorist attacks in the United States may have triggered "price spikes" in global oil markets, but local oil companies yesterday assured the public that local oil prices would remain at present levels.

In a news statement, Petron Corp. said it had enough supply to maintain current prices.

"We are now seeing volatility in international oil markets in reaction to the parallel attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We assure the public that we will not react to these spikes since we have sufficient inventory," said Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager.

Another Petron official said price increases in crude and processed oil were seen in almost all markets globally.

For their part, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said security around their installations, depots and work sites remained at high level.

However, Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said in a separate statement there were more than three weeks supply of oil products.

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HERBS FOUND EFFECTIVE VS DIABETES, HEPA

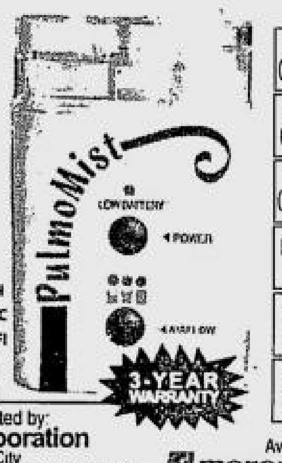
SCIENTISTS have found insulin-like substances in a herbal plant that is effective in treating diabetes and hepatitis.

Prof. Hirochi Okuda of Ehime University, Japan said the administration of this plant, as 'miracle herb', has shown that the blood glucose level inpatients at the early stage of diabetes returned to normal and in cases of patients at advanced stage the blood glucose level was significantly lowered.

Aside from diabetes, the herb (human shaped root like) has been found effective against other ailments such as rheumatism, arthritis, insomnia, tuberculosis, asthma, heart disease, eyesight problem and even cancer.

Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness and 70 percent of deaths among diabetics are due to atherosclerosis (thickening of blood vessels due to cholesterol) and kidney failure.

Approved by the World Health Organization, the herb is now in the Philippines. **For details on its medicinal benefits call 736-7732 or 736-7691 look for Digna Lizada.**



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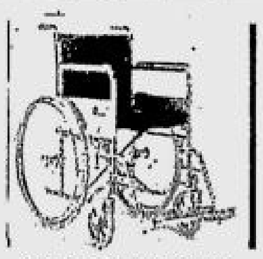

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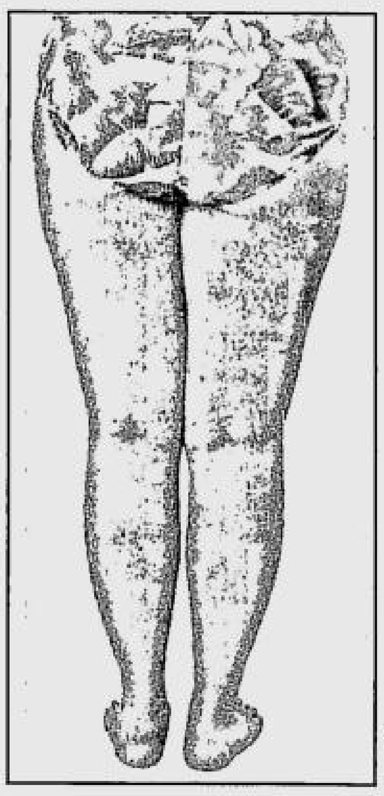

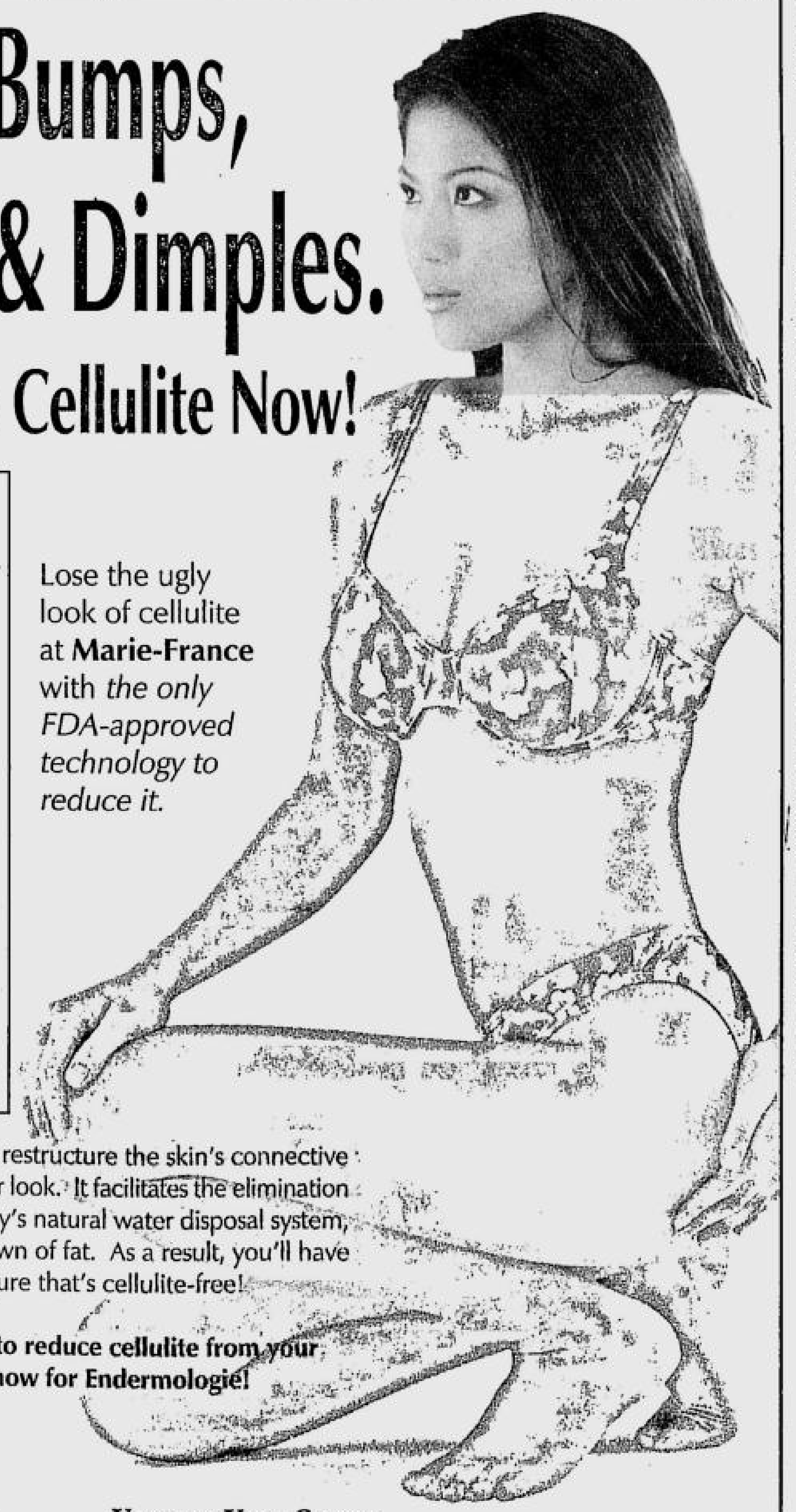

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US-bound PAL flights await go-signal

SOME 900 United States-bound Philippine Airlines passengers are waiting for a Federal Aviation Administration decision today on whether to reopen US airports even as Philippine authorities tightened security at the country's airports, sea ports and mass transit systems in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"While we are far from the US, I have instructed heads of the agencies to double security at the country's vital installations to ensure the safety of the traveling public," Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said.

PAL has canceled all US-bound flights following the FAA directive closing all US airports in the wake of the attacks.

The flag carrier said in a press statement that it has strengthened security in all of its facilities, offices and stations.

Two other airlines haye canceled their regular US-bound flights. The US-based Northwest Airlines canceled its regular flights to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit.

The Guam-based Continental Air Micronesia also canceled its two flights to Guam.

In the wake of Tuesday's attack, PAL had to cancel two US-bound flights that night, one scheduled to leave at 9:30 p.m. for Los Angeles with 325 passengers and another bound for San Francisco at 10:15 p.m. with 162 passengers listed.

But two other US-bound flights were already en route when the FAA directive was announced.

Los Angeles-bound flight PR 108 had 189 passengers while San Francisco-bound flight PR 106 had 190 passengers on board.

The two aircraft had to land in Vancouver, Canada, while it was waiting for clearance from the FAA to proceed to their desti-nations.

All passengers and crew members were safely checked into the Delta Pacific Hotel, PAL said.

PAL said it has readied replacement flights for tomorrow should the FAA decide to allow US airports to resume operations.

The flag carrier operates 23 flights weekly to the US, 13 flights to Los Angeles, 13 flights to San Francisco and three flights to Honolulu.

Starting yesterday, policemen and bomb-sniffing dogs were deployed at airport terminals and sea ports across the country as well as the stations of the Metro Rail Transit and Light Railway Transit in Metro Manila.

At the Naia Terminals 1 and 2, passengers, airport personnel and cars were subjected anew to rigorous security checks.

Additional personnel from the Aviation Security Group and Airport Police Department were deployed to man sensitive areas, especially the cargo terminal and aviation fuel depot, located halfway between the two terminals.

The cargo terminal was the site of one of five bomb explosions that rocked Metro Manila on Dec. 30 last year.

Alvarez said that there has been no threat so far against any of the country's vital facilities, but did not discount the possibility that terrorists might penetrate even the tightest security.

"If they can attack the world's most powerful nation, how much more the Philippines? We can only protect so much," he said. ***Abigail L. Ho and TJ Burgonio***

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TARGET:MARKET

North, Central Luzon in high state of alert

MILITARY and police officials have placed Northern and Central Luzon under "a very high state of alert" after the terrorist attacks in the United States Tuesday.

"Vital installations were secured by the military to guard against terrorists who might want to take advantage of the situation," Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, commanding general of Northern Luzon Command, said.

Communications and power facilities and dams are being closely guarded after the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the US were attacked.

Garcia said the military lapses in Basilan and Palawan as well as the bus and LRT bombings in Metro Manila have eroded the people's faith in the authorities to protect them.

"This time we would like to make sure that these lapses will not happen again," he said.

In Pampanga, Col. Charles Hotchkiss, Philippine Air Force commander in Clark, ordered the security at the Clark International Airport tightened.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, said more than 8,000 policemen in the region have increased their visibility on the streets, especially in Angeles City where a number of retired American military personnel live.

Maj. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said power plants, private oil depots, some 20 flagship projects of the government like the $50-million San Roque Dam in Pangasinan are "adequately protected" against terrorist activities.

In Dagupan City, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan diocese, issued a circular letter to churches in the diocese urging people to pray for those killed in the US attacks.

"Today we learn much and well from the lamentable tragedy that befell a nation and struck the world as a whole, we in the distant part of the globe included. The lesson to be learned is this: Violence is a problem, never a solution. Killing is a disease, never a cure. Injustice brings hatred, never peace," Cruz, immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said.

Cruz described the assault as "living reality of evil at work in the world."

In Baguio City, residents were swamped by e-mails and calls from friends and relatives working in New York, especially at the World Trade Center.

In e-mail messages, Filipinos and foreigners who have relatives in the Philippines narrated how they survived the "horrifying attack" of terrorist against the US.

They also appealed to their relatives to pray for world peace and security.

Cellphone users started receiving text messages quoting a quatrain of French physician and astrologer Michel de Nostradamus, who authored a popular book of rhymed prophecies, "The Centuries" in 1555.

These lines were among the most-quoted text pieces: "In the city of York there will be a great collapse, two twin brothers torn apart by chaos while the fortress fall, the great leader will succumb, the third big war will begin when the big city is burning." ***With reports from Ronald Dizon, Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Yolanda Fuertes, Gobleth Moulic and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 13, 2001
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 3:12-17
Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "But I say to you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek; from the one who takes your coat, do not keep back your shirt. Give to the one who asks and if anyone has taken something from you, do not demand it back.

Do to others as you would have others do to you. If you love only those who love you, what kind of graciuusness is yours? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do favors to those who are good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners do the same. If you lend only when you expect to receive, what kind of graciousness is yours? For sinners also lend to sinners, expecting to receive something in return.

But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend when there is nothing to expect in return. Then will your reward be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. For he is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

In Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, there are many lessons to consider. The setting on the plain helps us understand the basic message of Jesus: forgiveness and love. The plain is the context of most of Israelites' activities, be they economic, social, or political. In any given transaction, people may commit blunders intentionally or unintentionally, causing inconvenience and distress. Jesus teaches that forgiveness and love are the traits of a good disciple. Nowadays, we have new ways of dealing with injustices. While we try to forgive the offenders and heal the offended, we also make sure that justice is applied and that the crime will not happen again. We have discovered the power of clear articulation. We are no longer living in an age in which violence is the only solution.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—There is no direct evidence as to who actually killed the victim. Nevertheless, direct evidence of the commission of the crime is not the only matrix whereby the trial court may draw its conclusions and findings of guilt. It is settled that conviction may be based on circumstantial evidence provided that the following requisites must concur: (a) there is more than one circumstance; (b) the fact from which the inferences are derived are proven; and (c) the combination of all the circumstances is such as to produce a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. Circumstantial evidence is of a nature identically the same with direct evidence. It is equally direct evidence of minor facts of such a nature that the mind is led intuitively or by a conscious process of reasoning to the conviction that from them some other fact may be inferred. No greater degree of certainty is required when the evidence is circumstantial than when it is direct. In either case, what is required is that there be proof beyond reasonable doubt that the crime was committed and that the accused committed the crime. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Oliva, G.R. No. 106826, January 18, 2001]

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For sale for P1B: RPS Ang Pangulo

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE FINANCE department has set its sights on selling the newly refurbished presidential yacht "Ang Pangulo" next year, hoping to boost the state's coffers by as much as P5 billion.

Also slated for sale are an estimated P20 billion worth of state-owned real estate in Fort Bonifacio and another P10 billion worth properties in Ortigas near Meralco Avenue.

A ranking finance official said the government is planning to bid out next year the presidential yacht for at least P1 billion along with other assets like the remaining pieces of property of the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The official said that if market conditions improve next year improve, the "Ang Pangulo" could even fetch some P4 to P5 billion.

Another finance official said the government could raise as much as P20 billion from the sale of the remaining assets of the BCDA in Fort Bonifacio. But the problem of squatters on the property will have to be addressed, he said.

Surrendered assets

The Ortigas properties are part of the assets surrendered by Marcos crony Jose Y. Campos. But the ownership of the properties are still in dispute.

This would have to be threshed out soon if the government hopes to dispose of the Ortigas and Fort Bonifacio real estate assets in the next two years, the official said.

The cash-strapped Macapagal-Arroyo administration is counting on the sale of government assets to help finance a huge budget deficit of about P145 billion this year and P130 billion next year.

The government intends to raise as much as P10 billion this year from the privatization of state assets, including a 10 percent stake in the Manila Electric Co., a majority stake in the Philippine National Construction Corp., and International Broadcasting Co. or IBC-13.

Meralco shares

But in the first seven months of the year, it was able to raise only P500 million from the sale of idle assets.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has said the finance department will definitely dispose of the Meralco shares this year along with other real estate properties like the International School property in Makati City.

The government has been using privatization proceeds to help reduce the budget deficit resulting from the low revenue collections of the internal revenue and customs bureaus.

In the first seven months of the year, the Bureau of Internal Revenue incurred a collection shortfall of more than P13 billion while the Bureau of Customs fell short of its target by slightly more than P2 billion.

Ex-general faces graft raps

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OMBUDSMAN'S office yesterday filed graft and malversation charges against retired Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, nine ranking military officials and eight others in connection with allegedly questionable purchases made by the Marine Corps in 1999 which were exposed by former Navy chief Guillermo Wong early this year.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said Espinosa, the then commandant of the Navy Marine Corps, and 17 others had connived in procuring substandard Kevlar helmets for the Marines.

Desierto said Espinosa and the others allegedly made it appear that they had purchased US-made Kevlar helmets but actually delivered inferior Taiwan-made ones, thus "causing undue injury to the government."

Aside from Espinosa, those charged for graft and malversation through falsification of public documents were Colonels Inocencio Artajos, Arnold Blanco, Natalio Torreno and Serio Eria; Commander Eduardo Loyola; Majors Luciardo Obena, Godofredo Tabila, Edmund D. Yurong and Jaime Napoles.

The civilian employees included in the charge sheet were: Iluminada Flores, Jenny Napoles, Evelyn de Leon, Anna Marie Dulguime, Reynaldo Francisco, Magdalena Francisco, Mia Legacion and Prescilla Somosot.

Desierto said Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro, who recommended the filing of charges before the Sandiganbayan, found that purchase orders, requisition and issue orders worth P3.8 million were split into small purchases of P300,000 each to avoid having to obtain the approval of higher authorities.

Desierto said the bidding was discovered to have been simulated as the companies, which were supposed to have participated were either, non-existent or dummies of the winning bidder, Jenny Napoles.

And despite the fact that the Kevlar helmets were fully paid as early as Jan. 7, 1999, delivery was completed only two years after payment was made.

Casimiro said the civilian respondents were indicted since they were the ones who supplied the substandard helmets.

Top generals switch posts

By Carlito Pablo

WITH the approval of Malacañang, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has designated Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu as the new commander of the Southern Command, vice Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Camiling will assume Cimatu's post as Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, the third highest position in the AFP.

"General Camiling is due to rise to a higher position in the AFP," Adan said in a briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Southcom is the largest unified area command of the AFP responsible for Mindanao. A turn-over of command will be held tomorrow.

Adan stressed that the switch has nothing to do with the drawn out hostage crisis in Basilan or the controversial fiasco in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2 wherein the Abu Sayyaf managed to break out of a military cordon.

"There is no connection with Basilan," Adan said. "There are no demotions involved."

Adan said both Camiling and Cimatu are Mindanao veterans, having commanded the 6th and 4th Infantry Divisions, respectively, which engaged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in last year's all-out war against the secessionist rebels.

"This is a move which the national leadership thinks would benefit the country as well as the two officers," Adan said.

Military insiders are speculating that Camiling is being groomed to take over the AFP vice chief of staff position which will be vacated by Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim when he retires this November.

KIM WONG'S PAL

Club takes up cudgels for SC administrator

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE Columbian Association has taken cudgels for newly appointed Supreme Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. who formally assumed his post on Tuesday.

Speaking on behalf of the association, Columbian board director Arturo Gacutan said the former appellate associate justice was appointed by the high court because of his competence and unquestionable integrity.

Gacutan told the INQUIRER that Velasco should not be faulted just because Kim Wong, who is accused of being a drug dealer, happens to be his acquaintance.

"Wong is a fellow Columbian. He can't just ignore him, especially now that he (Velasco) is presently the President of our association," Gacutan said.

Gacutan confirmed that Wong and Velasco are just plain tennis playmates. "They came to know each other while playing tennis at the association's tennis court in Manila. They're just acquaintances, nothing more," he added.

Gacutan said Velasco was chosen by the high court to occupy the post vacated by Justice Alfredo Benipayo, who is now the chair of the Commission on Elections, because of the endorsement of three top lawyers' groups in the country.

Strongly endorsed

"He was strongly endorsed by the Philippine Judges Association, Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines," he added.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. swore in the 53-year-old Velasco in front of all 14 justices of the high court at about 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Velasco's family members, relatives, friends and fellow CA associate justices were present to witness the oathtaking ceremonies.

His appointment was based on a full court resolution dated Sept. 4, which was approved by 10 of the 15 SC justices.

During the occasion, Davide also swore in two more appointees to the high court—Judge Christopher Lock as Deputy Court Administrator and Prosecutor Carlos de Leon as Assistant Court Administrator.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to him since Tuesday, to no avail.

In an interview, Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan, SC's Public Relations Office chief, said the high court pushed through with Velasco's oathtaking to prove that the justices have no doubts on the latter's credibility and competence.

Khan stressed that the justices did not see it fit to defer Velasco's oathtaking yesterday because the high court had already conducted its own internal investigation on Velasco's background.

Khan pointed out that the SC conducted its own "discreet background" investigation even before the allegations of Velasco's ties with alleged drug lord Kim Wong came out in the newspapers.

"It's SOP (standard operating procedure) to do background check on those justices being considered for a certain post," he said.

Khan said Velasco's moral ascendancy over trial judges and court personnel nationwide was beyond question. "Also, his academic and legal credentials are impeccable," he added.

In a news bulletin, the SC said that prior to his appointment as CA justice, Velasco served as justice undersecretary, commissioner of housing, chair of board of pardons and parole and commissioner of Commission on Settlements on Land

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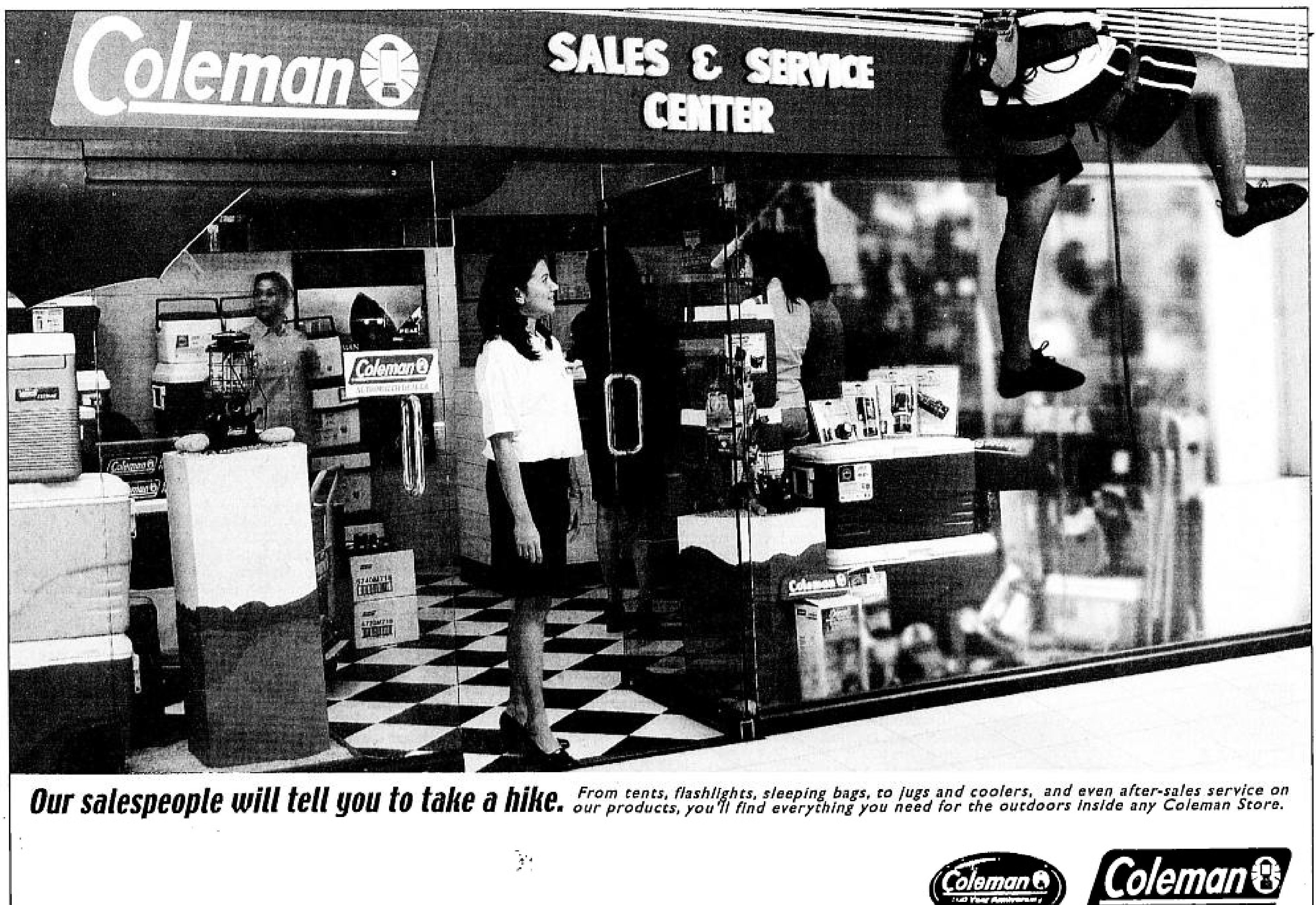

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Filipinos survive towering infernos

(From page A1)

worked on the 18th floor.

Four of her province mates working at the WTC also survived. Lacson, daughter of former Negros Occidental Gov. Daniel Lacson, does not know about the fate of the other Filipinos.

Not even the Philippine Consulate in New York knows, according to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

Most of the Filipinos working at the WTC were information technology experts, said Linglipay Lacanlale, consul general of the Philippine Consulate.

So far, the consulate was informed about three lawyers of the Abad, Castillo and Mallonga law office, who were still unaccounted for while their two secretaries escaped, reported Guingona yesterday.

The DFA profile showed that in New York City, there are 152,599 Filipinos under the jurisdiction of the consulate.

One of them is 60-year-old Rosy Gonzales Kopelsohn. She's associate vice president of Morgan, Stanley, Dean, Witter, the top brokerage-financial house in the world. It seemed like a normal Tuesday morning when she left for work.

Smartly dressed, Rosa stepped into the WTC building and took the elevator up to the headquarters of her company that occupies several floors of the famed building.

It was 8:35 a.m. when she reached her office on the 73rd floor. After making coffee at the pantry, she returned to her desk and opened her computer to check for new appointments that day. Finding no change in her schedule, she sat back to sip her coffee. Then she heard a big explosion.

Not bothering to find out what it was, Rosa was about to continue her work when one of the employees shouted, "Let's get out of here." This time, she heard people screaming, crying and shouting.

The crowd rushed out of the door toward the elevator. But fearing that the elevator might jam, they took the stairs.

Eighteen minutes later, Rosa and the other employees were on the 30th floor. Again, they heard a huge explosion.

The building trembled. Rosa stopped for a minute to catch her breath following the rush down the stairs. All she could think of was calling her husband and leaving something for her relatives back in Iloilo City.

Suddenly, a man helped her down the stairs, all the way to the 1st floor. Outside, Rosa saw blood everywhere, shattered glass windows, assorted debris, billowing smoke and people in flight, screaming, disoriented, crying.

Her legs could not take the running, so she just walked, all the time thinking of getting home to her husband.

She did not look back. She just walked and walked. Three hours later, she arrived at her apartment. Her husband was very worried because he could not get in touch with her on the telephone.

It was only there that she learned what had happened.

She realized she was blessed, saved, and alive. But she was very sad, too. How about the other employees in her office building? Did they make it? It will take some days before she knows for sure.

Nurses' stories

Jocelyn Parco, 35, a native of Batan, Aklan, went to New York City to work as a nurse in 1990. She finished her nursing degree, cum laude, at the Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

After 11 fruitful years in New York, she received a call from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She was to be interviewed for US citizenship on that fateful Tuesday.

Jo arrived on time at 8:10 a.m. for her interview at the Federal Plaza Building, two blocks from the World Trade Center. She left at 8:35 a.m., smiling and confident that she had passed the interview.

While walking toward the subway station at the World Trade Center for a train ride to her apartment, she entered a bookstore to browse then "Boom!"

She overheard the clerk saying, "A plane hit the World Trade Center." She found it ridiculous and thought that somebody was just making a movie. She continued scanning some books. Then another loud explosion was heard.

This time, Jo was alarmed. When she stepped out of the store, she saw fire and smoke billowing from the top of the Twin Towers, and debris falling.

People were screaming, crying and running fast. Jo also ran as fast as she could. When she reached Chinatown about a mile away, she took the first bus she saw. Inside the bus, she started crying.

She could not understand why it happened. All she was thinking of was that she could have been trapped in the subway or could have died. She was no longer thinking about her US citizenship. She was simply thinking of running, and running fast.

In Washington D.C., Fil-Am nurse Tess Paragua at Howard University Hospital is on a "disaster code level." Which means she can't go home.

"Casualties started coming at about 10 p.m. Patients who can go home have been asked to leave to make room for the casualties (from the Pentagon bombing)," she said.

Patricia Paez, consul in Washington, said that about 200 Filipinos were working at the Pentagon.

"We have contacted hospital authorities. But we're told that they are busy saving lives and can't give us the list of those injured. Besides, they do not classify their patients according to ethnicity because they consider them all Americans," said Paez who had visited three hospitals in the Washington area.

A certified nursing assistant, Tess U. Peralta, was going to the Ft. Myer military community in Arlington, Virginia (less than 2 miles from the Pentagon-**Ed**). She noted the sign at the guarded entrance. "It said something like a 100-percent security check."

A nurse at Washington Hospital, Zenia Villalon, said that the clinical manager had told them 11 victims were admitted. "I don't know if they are Filipinos. Most of them were in the burn unit. The hospital was on orange code, or disaster alert."

Like a movie

It was like (the movie) "Armageddon."

This was how Negrense Lagrimas Hinojales described her experience.

Hinojales, who worked with a trading firm at the WTC, recalled there was panic in the streets as the debris was falling on that fateful morning.

"We did not know if we would live or not, it was like (in the movie) Armageddon," she said, "because we did not know what would be hit next."

"We did not know if there would be more attacks and everywhere you went you could see the smoke from the World Trade Center," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Hinojales was one of the five lucky Negrenses who survived the twin attacks. The four others were Stevie Villacin, Raffy Kilayko, Maria Pacita Cajili Cuaycong, and Marie Therese Lacson.

Lacson, Hinojales and Villacin worked for Co Stellar Services, a trading firm that held office on the 18th floor of the second WTC tower.

Kilayko worked with a firm on the building's 63rd floor. Lacson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that there were Filipinos working in almost every office in the WTC, from the banks to the restaurants.

But, she said, she did not know how many of them were as lucky as the five of them.

Hinojales was in her office on the 18th floor of the second tower when she and her officemates heard an explosion.

From their office window, she saw debris and a lot of paper falling.

Hinojales said some employees stayed in their office because no alarm was sounded. But she said she decided to go with the others who decided to get out from the building through the fire escape.

As they were running down the stairs, she recalled many were on their cellular phones talking to friends to tell them what had happened.

It was on the second floor, she said when she saw a number of firemen who were going up the building.

She was already across the street from the building when another plane crashed into the second WTC building.

People falling out

Hinojales recalled that it was such a horrible site as people were falling out from the top floors. A friend, she said, saw a man in a suit fall right in front of her.

"We did not know if the people were falling out from the collapsing building or (from) the plane, Hinojales said.

All she did was to run away from the WTC as fast as her feet could take her. She and the many others did not look back, Hinojales recalled.

Lacson, for her part, recalled that it was about 8:45 a.m. when the train on the subway stopped at the basement of the WTC second tower. Her work starts at 9 a.m.

When she got off from the train, she was surprised to see a stampede of people running out of the building.

"When we got out of the building, there was a lot of paper falling out from the building above, it was like snow and people were shouting at us to go left," Lacson said.

She said she was about a block away when she turned around and saw the first tower burning and heard a loud blast from the other tower that was hit by a second airplane.

Lacson said she took a cab, which she shared with other Americans, and went to a relative at Midtown, New York.

When she arrived there, Lacson said someone called up to tell them to get out of the building because it is near the Grand Central Station, which could be another target for attack.

She then moved to an office of a friend at 40th and 6th Avenue. "Everywhere you went you could still see the burning of the World Trade Center," Lacson said.

"A lot of people were in shock, and many were crying. Vehicles were not moving. Everybody was walking," she said, because the subway and bus services came to a halt.

Exodus

Lacson, who lives in Queens, said like the many others, she decided to walk home.

As they crossed the Tri Borough Bridge that is known for its beautiful view of Manhattan, everyone walked in silence as they looked back at the burning city.

"There were tears rolling down the faces of many," Lacson said. "It was like a scene from the Exodus in the Bible."

Pat Cajili, mother of Maria Pacita Cajili Cuaycong, said her daughter was lucky that she was in the two buildings during the attack.

Cuaycong said her daughter was on her way to the WTC when the passengers were told to get off upon reaching the subway stop before the building.

Ms Cajili said it took her a long time to reach her daughter to find out how she was because the phone lines were clogged.

"I was so nervous I could not remember her number," Ms Cajili said. "When I found out she was all right, I cried."

Villacin had just gotten off the subway at the WTC and was among the crowd that rushed out of the building.

Kilayko, on the other hand, was not in the building during the attack because he came in late for work, Lacson said.

Last plane in

Grace Zaragoza, a tourist from Manila, was on a United airlines flight from Chicago landing at La Guardia airport at 9 a.m. last Tuesday, one of the last planes allowed to land at the airport. It was her first trip to the Big Apple. Seating by the window as the plane descended, she thrilled to the New York skyline dominated by the World Trade Center. It was the last time she would see it. ***With a report from Rafael R.Castillo, M.D.***

World braces for more attacks

TOKYO—The world went on a terror alert Wednesday as governments urged calm and stepped up security in the wake of audacious attacks in New York and Washington that left people around the globe wondering whether their cities might be next.

Malaysians feared the worst when a bomb threat triggered the morning evacuation of thousands of people from the world's tallest buildings—the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

A second threat cleared another skyscraper in Malaysia's biggest city, while a third later in the day targeted the Messeturm—one of the tallest buildings in Frankfurt, Germany.

Police ruled all threats a prank—but another chill was cast when the US Embassy in Jakarta warned that terrorists might be planning a strike against American interests in Indonesia.

As the world recoiled, global leaders raced to prevent a possible repeat of the death and destruction unleashed when two hijacked planes crashed into New York's World Trade Center on Tuesday, destroying both towers and likely killing thousands of people.

It was a shock felt round the world.

"What about my country, or here in Tokyo? Will there be attacks as well?" said British headhunter Nick Frank, pouring over a Japanese newspaper with the banner headline, "America Center of Simultaneous Terror."

Soldiers mobilized

From Russia to Australia, soldiers mobilized, embassies locked their doors and stock markets shut down.

Schools kept students home, and skyscrapers cut off access. Leaders mourned, rushed home from abroad and hastily called crisis meetings. Even the tiny city-state of Singapore sounded the alarm.

"The focus of the world is now on the danger of copycat terrorist attacks on capitals of the world," Singapore Defense Minister Tony Tan said.

Calling for "utmost vigilance," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi went on television to calm the country and outline his defense strategy: Stabilize Japanese financial markets, step up military patrols and coordinate an emergency rescue team to help the United States dig out from the rubble.

That was cold comfort, however, on the streets of Tokyo, where a wary population still remembers the 1995 nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway system that killed 12 people and sickened thousands.

Another terrorist attack "could happen in Japan, too, since we're allies with America," bus driver Kohei Suzuki said.

Wednesday's terrorist warning in Indonesia followed a similar alert issued last week by the US Department of State to Americans living in Japan and neighboring South Korea.

At the time, an embassy spokesperson in Tokyo said officials had "credible" information an attack might occur in the region. So far, it hasn't.

But Tuesday's attacks in the United States underlined the need for everybody to be prepared.

"The challenge is how to protect the nation," Japan's defense agency chief, Gen Nakatani, said, according to Kyodo news agency, after cutting short an Indonesian visit to return home.

Around the world, countries mobilized soldiers or police to bolster security at potential terrorist targets—government buildings, airports, harbors, diplomatic missions and military bases.

"It's better to have too high security level than too low," Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair led a crisis meeting of senior security officials, and European Union officials were to do the same in Brussels, Belgium. ***AP***

Bomb scare hits Petronas Twin Towers

KUALA LUMPUR—Thousands of workers and shoppers were evacuated Wednesday from the world's tallest buildings, the Petronas Twin Towers, following a bomb threat that came as many Malaysians were just learning of the terror tragedy gripping the United States.

Police bomb squads found no explosives in the 88-story towers, and people were allowed back to all floors shortly before noon (0400GMT), a little over three hours after the threat. No one was hurt, but six people fainted during the evacuation and were taken to a nearby clinic.

Just as the Petronas towers were declared safe, a threat was phoned in to the IBM building. Some 2,000 people were evacuated as police combed the 24-story landmark, which houses the offices of IBM Malaysia, Standard Chartered Bank, among other firms.

The threat against the Petronas towers came during morning working hours, some 12 hours after hijackers flew jetliners into the World Trade Center in New York, causing both towers to collapse, and into the Pentagon in Washington.

Thousands of people in both the 88-story, nickel-plated Petronas towers were told to leave their buildings by a public address system. They were unaware that there was a bomb threat until they reached the ground.

"We were told that there was an emergency situation at the towers, so we were asked to evacuate," said Tarajit Singh, a finance supervisor for Petronas, Malaysia's national oil company.

"We had to walk down and leave the building," Tarajit said. "I walked down 58 floors. Only those who were sickly or expecting got to use the elevators."

Building officials initially told reporters that the evacuation was merely a routine drill. But police confirmed that a threat had been called in from a public telephone to building management at 8:30 a.m. (0030 GMT). The caller said that a bomb would explode at 9 a.m. (0100 GMT).

Petronas called the police, who advised immediate evacuation of all tenants from the towers and shoppers from the mall on lower levels, while a floor-by-floor search was conducted by explosives experts.

"We think it's a prank call," said police spokesperson Chief Inspector Azli Zakaria.

Police said that no chances were being taken in the wake of the attacks in the United States, which occurred while many Asians were sleeping.

Sofia Sahibullah, 24, an administrative assistant working on the 14th floor, said that she first heard of the U.S. attacks on her car radio as she drove to work.

"I thought, 'We might be in danger,'" Sofia said. "We are working in this world famous building. Just imagine what would happen if we were attacked. It would be a disaster."

Amy Liew, 40, a human resources manager working on the 51st floor, said that she was terrified: "We were so scared. The first thing I thought about was the U.S. incident."

"Whoever called in this threat was very irresponsible," said tourist Robert Horsley, 22, of Hamilton, New Zealand. "They knew that they would frighten people because of what happened in New York." ***AP***

Baghdad rejoices over US suffering

(From page A1)

"God is Great" and distributing candy to passers-by, even as Arafat expressed his dismay.

In the town of Nablus, about 3,000 people poured into the street shortly after the attacks began to unfold. Demonstrators distributed candy in a traditional gesture of celebration.

In Ein el-Hilweh, Lebanon's largest refugee camps on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon where about 75,000 Palestinians live, "there was firing in the air by anyone who had any kind of weapon," witnesses said.

The firing continued for an hour, witnesses said.

Similar celebratory gunfire was heard at the Rashidiyeh camp near the southern port city of Tyre.

In overwhelmingly Islamic northern Nigeria, where thousands have died in Muslim-Christian violence since several states introduced Sharia, some Muslims celebrated around TV sets.

"We're happy that God is now showing the United States that it is not the leader of the world. Allah is the leader of the world," one woman, Animutu Abubakar, said in the northern city of Kaduna. "Allah be praised."

Lesson for tyrants

In Baghdad, the official Al-Iraq newspaper said the terror attacks that reduced New York's landmark World Trade Center to flaming rubble and set the Pentagon ablaze were a "lesson for all tyrants and oppressors."

Under the headline "America burns," the paper said "US leaders must expect such a lesson because they have shown insupportable cruelty toward people and that ended by blowing up in their face, destroying their symbols and making Americans weep bitter tears."

"It is the prestige, arrogance and institutions of America that burn," the newspaper charged.

"Brutal America, suffering from illusions of grandeur, has inflicted humiliation, famine and terrorism on all of the world's countries and today it reaps the fruits of its arrogant and stupid policy.

"Whichever party committed these attacks, it has dragged the dignity of the US government into the mud and unveiled its vain arrogance. A state cannot be powerful if it is incapable of defending itself domestically."

The newspaper said the "myth of America was destroyed with the World Trade Center in New York. The great power that once sowed terror throughout the world was yesterday terrified, thrown into a panic and humiliated."

American cowboys

An official Iraqi statement read by a commentator on Iraqi television earlier said that "the American cowboys are reaping the fruit of their crimes against humanity."

"It is a black day in the history of the United States, which is tasting the defeat for its worst crimes and dismissal of the will of the peoples who aspire to a free and honest life," the statement said.

"The explosions at the heart of US power, in particular the Pentagon, represent a painful slap in the face to American politicians to direct them to put an end to their illegitimate hegemony and their attempts to impose their authority over peoples," it added.

"It is no coincidence to see the World Trade Center (in New York) destroyed in a suicide attack, involving two planes which succeeded in fooling the security barriers to carry out the operation of the century and express the rejection of the cowardly American policy.

"The destruction of the centers of American power is the destruction of American policy, which has veered from human values to align itself with the Zionist world, to continue to massacre the Palestinian people and enforce American plans to dominate the world under cover of a so-called 'new world order.'"

The United States and Iraq have been sworn enemies since the Gulf War in 1991, when a multinational coalition led by Washington drove the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait after seven months of occupation.

Washington has recently stepped up its accusations that Baghdad represents a growing threat to the countries in the region. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Terror plot to use planes first exposed in RP

(From page A1)

Bojinka called for bombing commercial planes in midair, attacks on the US Embassy in Manila and assassination of government officials and foreign ambassadors.

The Philippine government passed the information obtained from Murad to the US Embassy and the US Joint Task Force on Terrorism.

But the US authorities were unable to use the information to prevent Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, former chief of the Presidential Security Guard, lamented yesterday.

At least four of Yousef's cohorts in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing have remained at large, bolstering suspicions that they could be behind the latest terrorist attacks in the US.

"Basit (Yousef) had discussed with Murad the viability of suicide attacks and the need to have people die as martyrs for the (Islamic fundamentalist) cause. As such, Murad came out with the idea of flying an aircraft and crash-diving it on the CIA headquarters building," one of the tactical interrogation reports said.

By his own admission, Murad lent "intelligence support" to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing by conducting an ocular inspection of the building in July 1992 on Yousef's order.

Murad, a Pakistani born in Kuwait and whose real name is Abdul Basit Mahmoud Kareem, was arrested on Jan. 7, 1995 at the Josefa Apartments in Ermita, Manila.

He then underwent interrogation at the Philippine National Police-Intelligence Command headquarters in Camp Crame from Jan. 17 to March 31.

Murad was extradited to the US in April 1995 where he was indicted in connection with the plot to bomb US commercial planes.

Suicide mission

Murad, a Kuwaiti national, revealed to his interrogators that it was he who broached the idea of undertaking a suicide mission using a hijacked commercial aircraft in the US.

"What Murad had in mind was that he would board any American commercial aircraft pretending to be an ordinary passenger. Then he will hijack the aircraft, control its cockpit and dive-crash it at the CIA headquarters," said the report dated Jan. 17, 1995.

No bomb will be used in carrying out the "mission," according to Murad.

"It is simply a suicidal mission that Murad is very much willing to execute. All he need is to be able to board the aircraft with a pistol so that he could execute the hijacking," the report said.

Licensed pilot

Records show that Murad was a licensed commercial pilot who first studied at the Continental Flying School in Pasay City from November 1990 to January 1991.

In November 1991, Murad enrolled at the Emirates Flying School in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he later earned a private pilot license. He earned his commercial pilot license at the Coastal Aviation located in Newburn, North Carolina.

The suicide mission in Langley did not push through with the arrest of Murad in Manila.

Yousef would be arrested later in Pakistan while a third member of Yousef's terrorist cell in Manila—Osama Asmurai aka Wali Khan Amin Shah—was arrested in Malaysia.

Terrorist cell

Based on Murad's disclosures in 1995, at least four other members of Yousef's terrorist cell have remained unaccounted for by US and Philippine intelligence services.

Murad identified three of Yousef's cohorts as Mahmoud Abuhalima, an Egyptian; Abdul Rahman Yasin, an Iraqi; and a certain Assam, a Jordanian studying in the US.

Abuhalima, a holder of German and American passports, provided Yousef with financial and logistical support in the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993.

He was with Yousef inside the yellow van, which they used in transporting the bomb to the parking area.

Yasin assisted Yousef in the planning, preparation and execution of the World Trade Center bombing. He disappeared after the bombing.

Taxi driver

Assam worked as a taxi driver in New York after he stopped going to school in 1991. He was the one who drove the bomb-laden yellow van to the World Trade Center parking area. He went back to Jordan after the bombing.

A fourth suspect is a Saudi Arabian, who provided financial support to the operation. He was arrested in February 1993 in Saudi Arabia but was later released by the authorities. His identity and whereabouts remain unknown.

In his interrogation dated Jan. 30, 1995, Murad also identified a certain Abdul Majid, alias Salem, Yousef's constant companion in Manila in 1995.

Majid is said to be a veteran of the Afghan War and an explosive expert like Yousef. His whereabouts are also unknown.

Yousef has other contacts in Algeria and Egypt. They are his former classmates in the mujahedin training they received in Jalalabad, Pakistan, according to Murad.

Yousef's terrorist cell is known to maintain links with the Harkat-Ul-Ansar, a militant organization of former Afghan resistance veterans (mujaheedin) whose bases could be found in Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar in Pakistan and Kabul and Quetta in Afghanistan.

The acknowledged spiritual leader of Harkat-Ul-Ansar is Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the Egyptian cleric, also known as the "Blind Sheikh," who was among those indicted for the series of bombings in New York in 1992.

Liberation Army

Murad recalled that Yousef had told him once that "some day the Liberation Army will grow and become independent and structured organization."

Murad then speculated that Yousef was planning to form his own terrorist organization.

Could it be that Yousef's former comrades, who remain at large, organized the "Liberation Army?"

Razon said the attacks on the World Trade Center on Tuesday had strong similarities to "Operation Bojinka."

"There's the bombing or use of airplanes. The World Trade Center attack was also coincidentally timed for the (anniversary of the) conviction of Yousef for the first World Trade Center bombing," Razon said.

He said the uncovering of "Bojinka" established the existence and operations of international terrorist cells in the Philippines and the threat on the life of the Pope.

"Terrorists strike anywhere at anytime. It is very difficult to stop them," Razon said.

"Bojinka" was "tested" in December 1994. A bomb exploded inside Philippines Airlines Flight 434, which was en route to Japan.

Filipino investigators managed to link Yousef to the planting of the bomb through a specimen signature provided by US intelligence agents.

Also, a flight stewardess identified Yousef as having transferred from his original seat to the seat, where the bomb exploded, to set off the timing mechanism.

The timing mechanism was similar to the device found in the Josefa Apartments where Murad was arrested.

Police responded to a fire distress call in Josefa Apartments on Quirino Avenue after smoke was seen coming out of the safehouse.

The police team was surprised to find parts of explosives and paraphernalia in the room.

The safehouse was just a stone's throw away from where the Pope had been staying.

US seeks access to RP airports for evacuees, goods

THE UNITED States has asked to be allowed the use of Philippine airports to transport US evacuees, non-combatants or goods, if necessary, in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York late Tuesday.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo has given her consent.

The request would fall under the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, which binds the two allies to help each other in case of an armed attack on their territories.

"Of course, we have to honor the MDT," Tiglao said.

He said the US government wanted not so much access to Philippine airports as facilitation of evacuees or the movement of non-combatants and materials.

Tiglao was speaking at a news briefing after the third meeting that the President held with Cabinet and security officials and business leaders in the past 12 hours since the attacks in the US.

Tiglao said a military attaché at the US Embassy in Manila had sent the request to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez early yesterday at about the time that the President was being briefed by the Cabinet oversight committee on national security.

"They (the US) sent word that they might have to transfer or move or have (to use) our airports as transit (points) for either evacuees or civilians or goods," Tiglao said.

He said it was not really a big deal as only Customs would be needed to facilitate such movements.

He said Golez has informed the "appropriate airport and customs authorities."

"We're very willing to help the US and the President fully supports President Bush's resolve to combat terrorism and to track down the perpetrators (of the attack)," Tiglao said.

In a statement that she sent to Bush at 1 a.m. yesterday, the President extended the condolences of the Filipino people and pledged all-out support for the US.

"We are sparing no effort in protecting all US nationals within our jurisdiction. We will help in whatever way we can to strengthen the global effort to crush those responsible for this barbaric act," she said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Thousands rally for P125 pay hike

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

RETURNING to the scene of the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, some 30,000 protesters led by the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday converged on Mendiola bridge to press for a P125 across-the-board wage increase for all workers nationwide.

The ralliers, led by Bayan Muna Representatives Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, tried to march to the Gate 7 entrance of the Palace but were blocked by anti-riot police.

Rally organizers said President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier promised to allow them to get into the Malacañang Freedom Park.

The protesters, composed mostly of factory workers from Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon, carried an effigy of the President which was installed with moving parts that made it wink, turn its head, swing its legs and wave its hands.

Storm of September

Ina Silverio, KMU public information officer, said the image symbolized a President who tries to appear cute but was not true to her word to support the workers' demand for a P125 wage increase which she had promised to consider as vice president.

Calling the rally "Storm of September," the KMU warned of bigger protests next month when the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards are expected to hand down wage increases of up to P77.

The call of the Malacañang protesters was echoed in Iloilo City where about 400 workers led by the KMU and the Panay Labor Alliance marched to demand an increase in the minimum wage.

"Our families have long been starving and we are more than impatient with the cold-shoulder treatment of the (Macapagal) government," said Aurelio Bosque, Panay KMU spokesperson.

The Alliance of Public sector Employees (APSE) also called for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase for government employees.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, the Communist Party of the Philippines joined the workers' call for a P125 wage increase.

'Simply not enough'

"As a party that represents the working class, the Communist Party of the Philippines thoroughly supports the struggle of the working masses nationwide to obtain a P125 across-the-board wage increase," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP national spokesperson, said.

"A P250 minimum daily wage is simply not enough, considering that a family of six needs P509 per day to live decently," he said.

Beltran, the KMU chair, deplored Ms Macapagal's departure for Japan on the very day that "workers and members of other poor sectors of Philippine society are bringing to her en masse their demand for economic relief."

As a further affront to workers, he said Ms Macapagal had reportedly included in her entourage the president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Donald Dee.

The Bayan Muna solons waited for Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to come out of Malacañang to meet them at the bridge as the President had reportedly promised them on Monday. Romulo, who was supposed to lead the protesters to Freedom Park, was a no-show. It was only a WPD officer who faced the rally leaders to inform them that they could not cross the bridge.

Militant labor groups have been asking Ms Macapagal to certify the Senate and House bills on the P125 wage hike as urgent priority measures.

The Senate bill was filed by Sen. Juan Flavier while its House counterpart was authored by Beltran.

Beltran's HB 2605 also proposes a P3,000 monthly salary increase for government employees. *With reports from Delfin T. Malari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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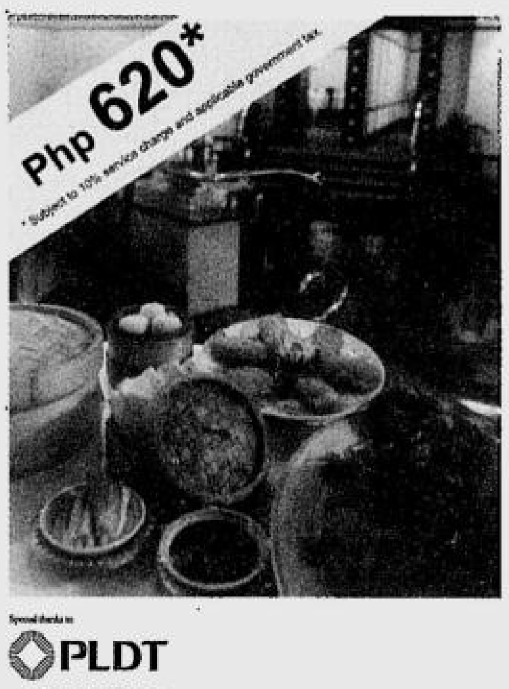
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Negros judge hit for blocking CARP

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform yesterday asked the Supreme Court to discipline a judge in Negros Occidental for blocking the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza, Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Roel Eric Garcia and DAR lawyer Marvin Bernal filed the complaint before the High Court against Judge Alfonso Combong of Branch 63 of the La Carlota City Regional Trial Court.

Combong was accused of encroaching on agrarian reform matters that are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the DAR as provided for under Section 50 of Republic Act 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

This, according to DAR officials, was a violation of the Code of Judicial Ethics and the Rules of Court.

Braganza, in a 10-page complaint, accused Combong of trying to stop the implementation of CARP in the province through the issuance of a status quo order.

"I'm confident that the Supreme Court will act swiftly on our complaint. Hopefully, this will also serve as an eye opener to other judges," Braganza said.

According to Bernal, Combong's status quo order effectively prevented the implementation of CARP in some areas of the province as it amounted to a writ of preliminary injunction against DAR.

Under the law, no lower court can issue injunctions against the implementation of CARP.

Bernal said the issuance of status quo order was a "unilateral and capricious" act of Combong and a clear violation of the agrarian reform law.

"The effectivity and implementation of laws cannot be made subject to the whims and caprices of the parties to the case or for that matter, Judge Combong," said the DAR lawyer.

Bernal also said that the judge tried to make it appear that the DAR, through him, had agreed to the issuance of a status quo order.

This made him question Combong's integrity, probity and independence as a member of the judiciary.

Braganza noted that the Supreme Court has ruled in many instances that it is DAR, not the regular courts, which has sole and exclusive jurisdiction over agrarian cases.

He said it has also cautioned lower courts against encroaching on said jurisdiction of DAR through Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 3.

"This is not a personal attack against Judge Combong. We are merely affirming our commitment to carry out our legal mandate and give flesh to the spirit of the law, which is social justice," Braganza said.

He expressed confidence that the Office of the Court Administrator will act swiftly on the complaint by giving priority to it.

For the first time, the militant Task Force Mapalad-Negros (TFM-Negros) lauded Braganza's move, but said the action was "long overdue."

Said TFM-Negros counsel Mabel Arias "That's good. That's their job and we appreciate it."

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

War on the US

THE ATTACK on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington was the most catastrophic terrorist project ever to hit the United States mainland. It was a vicious and treacherous attack that has been accurately described as a war on the United States, comparable to the outrage of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The terrorists symbolically struck the centers of American military and economic might. They crashed two hijacked airliners, loaded with passengers, into the World Trade Center, and another at Pentagon, the heart of American military power, killing more people than the more than 2,000 servicemen and women who perished at Pearl Harbor.

At Pearl Harbor, the enemy—Japan—was identified. In the Trade Center and Pentagon suicidal bombings, the enemy was invisible. The targets and the victims of the bombings were defenseless civilians. The magnitude of the catastrophe was such that it required the evacuation of federal buildings in the capital, including the White House, shut down Wall Street trading, disrupted of communication and air travel nationwide, and virtually put the US government on a war footing.

On the civilian side, the attack stretched civil emergency services in New York, to cope with thousands of casualties, and wiped the World Trade Center off the skyline of Manhattan.

The attack raised terrorist warfare to new heights of savagery and treachery, and sent signals to the rest of the world that no city is safe from this new form of terrorism which transcends national boundaries and is not launched by one state against another. The bombing is no less a brutal attack on civilization carried out by what US President George Bush condemned as the incarnation of "evil."

Not just America's war

THE ATTACK has prompted the international community to talk about a global effort to eradicate terrorism. As in Pearl Harbor, the attack has united the American people behind the response of President Bush. He has directed "the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice."

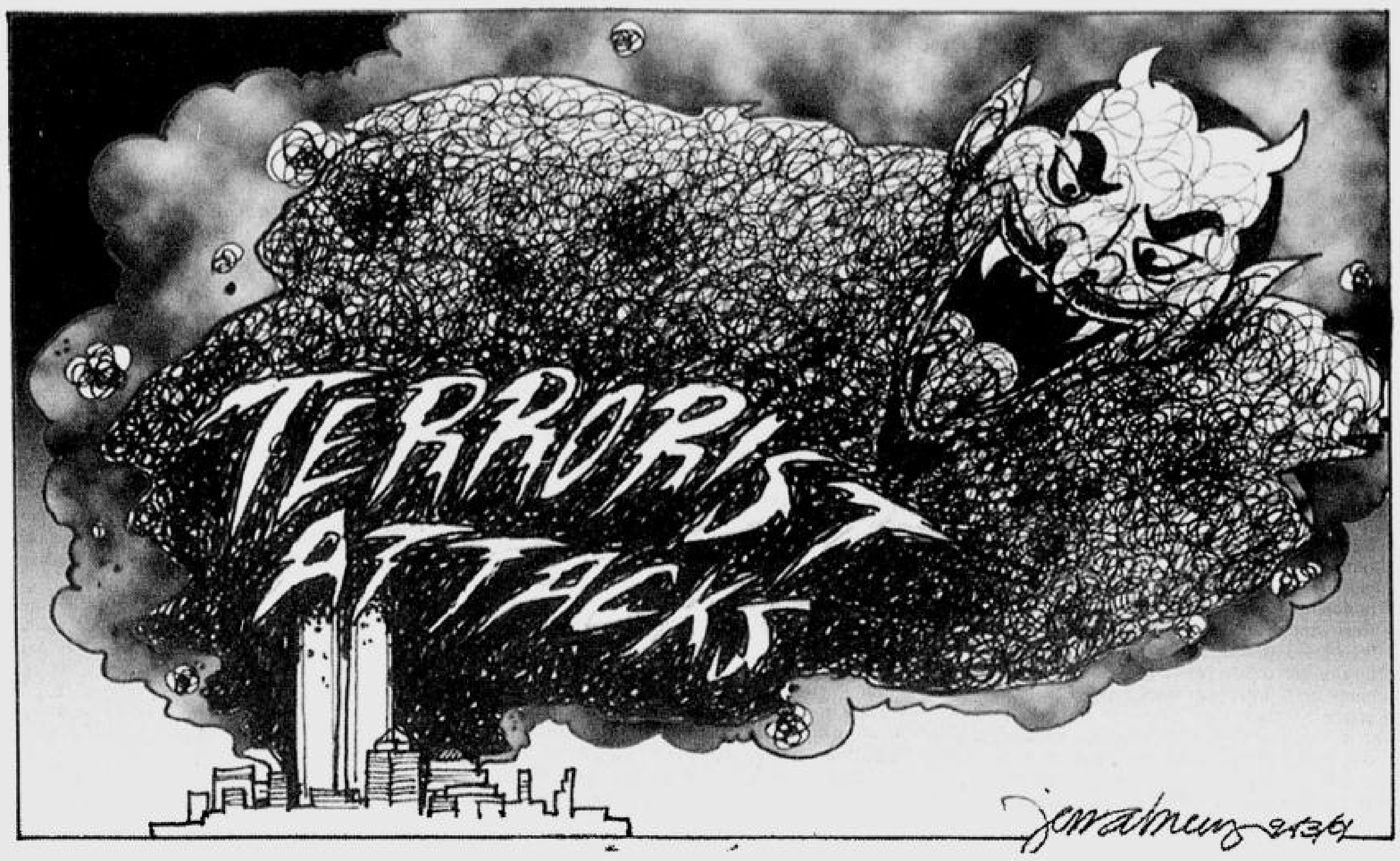
The US response spelled out a new strategy to counter terrorism. Bush said, "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them." This means that US action will be directed at countries which provide sanctuaries to or assist terrorists.

When the United States is provoked, it can be ruthless in its response. There can be no doubt about its capacity to mount such a response. The terrorists, in their treacherous attacks, have underestimated the response of the United States and its allies, who now feel gravely threatened by the bombings, to crush this faceless and borderless form of terrorism.

Already, there are suspects, as the intelligence services collect evidence in the search for the invisible culprits. But the more immediate concern is to provide relief to the thousands of hapless victims and to rebuild the disrupted infrastructure and civil disaster services. The hallmark of terrorism is that its targets are mainly civil installations and its victims are civilians—innocent non-combatants. What makes terrorism despicable is that terrorists use civilians as hostages and pawns. They hijacked passenger aircraft and crashed them into buildings, with their human cargo. We have had a taste of this, on smaller scale, in the terrorism of the Abu Sayyaf, which preys on civilian hostages to carry out not political objectives but to extract ransom money.

The attacks in the United States appear to have been carefully prepared, and exhibited sophistication and coordination. The hijacking of four airliners used in the attacks indicate a complex operation that eluded detection by the intelligence services. It would be inappropriate at this time to begin blaming a "massive intelligence failure" for the catastrophe. The attack was launched in a period of peace in America and in most of the world. In this condition, governments tend to be lax. The Cold War was fought on another level—that of espionage by agents of potential but identifiable enemies. The attacks probably require the revival of espionage to penetrate the underworld of terrorism.

As we condemn the attack on civilians, we join the call for an international effort to deprive terrorists of their extraterritorial sanctuaries. This is not America's war alone. This is civilized society's war against terrorism.


TERRORIST ATTACKS!

Who wants to be a millionaire?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHO doesn't? But there is a much easier way than joining the popular television quiz show: have yourself appointed to the Government Service Insurance System. When you retire, you will be not just a millionaire but a multimillionaire.

Sixteen GSIS personnel retired recently, and went home with a grand total of P150,111,822 in GSIS retirement funds, money that came from the hard-earned contributions of hundreds of thousands of lowly paid government employees.

Federico Pascual who was appointed GSIS president and general manager by Joseph Estrada served for only two and a half years but he got the second biggest retirement pay, P16,691,887. The biggest was collected by senior vice president Lourdes C. Patag, who was 45 years in the GSIS and head of the Social Insurance Group which processes and pays the retirement claims of members. She collected P17,502,402. But that is not the biggest so far. One vice president who opted for early retirement much earlier, got P20 million.

If you remember, I denounced last July 6 the GSIS Employee Loyalty Incentive Plan as anomalous, illegal and immoral. I wrote then that there already was a "scramble for GSIS vice presidents to take an early retirement because the pecuniary reward is just irresistible. They are afraid that once discovered, their retirement plan would be revised. It simply cannot be allowed to continue, legally and morally."

"Obviously, the budget department and the COA (Commission on Audit) must look into this overly generous GSIS incentive plan," I continued. "Malacañang must order an immediate freeze before everybody retires and GSIS funds are depleted. And the Ombudsman and the appropriate Senate committee must investigate the GSIS and charges must be filed for illegal acts committed."

Well, Malacañang did not do anything and so the scramble continued and 16 ranking officials were able to retire and illegally took more than P150 million with them. But I am glad that the COA unit assigned to the GSIS, headed by Ma. Cristina D. Dimagiba, has now openly declared the retirement plan illegal and morally indefensible, and she has recommended the filing of graft and corruption charges against the GSIS officials who perpetrated this raid on funds contributed by government employees. President Macapagal herself should take the initiative in putting the perpetrators of the theft behind bars.

How did the GSIS officials pull off this grand larceny? Simple. The GSIS computes and pays the retirement benefits of all government employees. One can retire with either a gratuity of lump sum under RA 1616, or with a monthly pension under RA 660—but not both. It must be either one or the other. But for themselves, the GSIS officials combined the two and called it the Employee Loyalty Incentive Plan. Both gratuity and pension are paid to retirees from the GSIS.

Not only that, the GSIS board increased the base for the computation for their own retirement benefits. Under the law, all government employees, upon retirement, are paid one month's salary for every year of service for the first 20 years; one month and a half for every year beyond 20 to 30 years; and two months for every year beyond that. But for themselves, the board increased this to one and a half month for every year for the first 20 years; two months for every year in the next 10 years; and two and a half months for every year after that. This is clearly illegal since it violates the Supreme Court ruling that prohibits the creation of any retirement or insurance plan other than that prescribed by law.

The current president and general manager of GSIS, Winston P. Garcia, defended the ELIP in the same way that he earlier defended his high salary. Yes, he is the same presidential appointee who brazenly declared that not even President Macapagal can make him take a cut on his gargantuan salary of P357,000 a month.

Garcia's brazenness is proof that he does not deserve to stay one minute longer at the helm of that agency. He is a lawyer, and as such he should know that retirement laws are legislated by Congress and not merely adopted by the GSIS board of trustees. By his reasoning, is Garcia saying that corporate boards can just approve special retirement plans for their employees and require the GSIS to pay these benefits from the GSIS Retirement Fund?

And how did Pascual qualify for retirement after only 30 months of service in the GSIS and with P16.6 million in benefits?

Most of the retirees mentioned in the INQUIRER story were long-time GSIS officials. For example, Lourdes Patag was with the GSIS for 45 years, most, if not all, of them spent in the Social Insurance Group. Patag must know by heart the GSIS retirement laws. Yet she turned a blind eye to these laws because she herself would benefit from the ELIP. The same is true of the other GSIS officials like Daniel Mijares, senior vice president for branches; Elvira Geronimo, senior vice president for administration; Nita Javier, corporate secretary; Marina Santamaria, vice president for social insurance; and Vicente Villegas, vice president and treasurer.

By the way, isn't the interest of GSIS members represented in the GSIS board? I understand that Flor Ibañez, who is the president of the Confederation of Government Employees Organization, sits on the board to protect the interest of members. But is it true that it was Ibañez who sponsored the ELIP in the board?

Beyond words

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"THERE are no words to describe it."

That was what several people, among them journalists whose business it is to find the words to describe events, said as images of the twin towers of the World Trade Center crumbling down kept flashing again and again on the screen. It looked almost like the special effects of an action movie, reminiscent in fact of "Independence Day" with its alien flying saucer turning the Washington, D.C. obelisk into a red-hot ember and disintegrating it. Only this time it wasn't a movie, it was real-life, and the alien spaceships were two domestic Boeings ramming into the heart of America, in the form of the World Trade Center, symbol of its wealth and power. The two towers "fell down like a glass house," as one eyewitness put it, sending a plume of smoke billowing into the streets of south Manhattan, and drenching New Yorkers, who scampered as the buildings came crashing down, in ash.

Verbalizing things has become almost instinctive with me after writing columns for a long time, but I myself could not find the words to pin down the horror of the scene. One Japanese said it when asked to describe the Hiroshima bombing: it sounded just like "pak-boom." Somehow, the childlike, primitive, almost haiku-ish effort to imitate the sound of the apocalypse caught more than the most copious words the true horror of what happened. "Yahweh," the transcendent good, is the one that cannot be named. The suicide attack on the World Trade Center, a transcendent evil, is one that cannot be named.

Disjointed images kept flashing in my mind, driving home the unreality of the event. Another eyewitness said shortly after the planes exploded that he could see people jumping off the building into the pavement below. You could see they were still alive after they hit the cement, he said, because they were still thrashing about. I thought of the people trapped inside the buildings, and what it must have been like before they came tumbling down.

Another woman, keeping back the tears, told of the stampede that followed the first signs of the buildings collapsing. A baby on a pram was yanked away from its mother and trampled upon by onrushing feet, the scene playing out in the witness' eyes in slow motion.

I thought as well of the passengers in the planes that rammed the buildings. One cannot begin to contemplate what went through the minds, particularly of those who had their children with them as they hurtled to their doom, if at all they had any minds left to think in those horrific moments. I do not know how the hijackers managed to take over the planes and aim them at the buildings (I assume it was a suicide mission, it's hard to see how it could have been done otherwise, the deadly accuracy suggests it) but it must have been absolute hell inside those airplanes in those final moments. The mind reels at the ferocious unraveling of it.

Having just visited America a couple of times over the last three months, I felt especially unnerved by the events. Not because it suddenly occurred to me that I might have been one of the passengers of those ill-fated planes, but because I had just seen the place and the people up close again, and that made it very, very personal. "We have our flaws," an American friend told me, "but we're just—people. Like you, like others."

And people were what I saw in that attack. This wasn't an attack on the American government, this was an attack on people. It wasn't the American government that evaporated in one loud flowering of fire as the planes burst on the canyons of steel, it was men, women and children. It wasn't the American government that lay bleeding underneath the rubble, amid columns of smoke, waiting for life to be snuffed out, it was ordinary office workers and firemen, some of whom might have been Filipinos. It wasn't the American government that wept without cease or shame about the loved ones they had lost, who had left home that morning from hugs or quarrels, in sickness or in health, never to come home again, it was people.

The bombing of the American naval base on Pearl Harbor, as one person said, was vicious enough, but it does not come close to this attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Though the numbers of casualties are probably comparable, the attack on Pearl Harbor claimed the lives predominantly of American servicemen, people who chose the life of combat and died in combat. The attack on New York City and even on Washington, D.C. has claimed the lives of ordinary citizens, people who have chosen only to become bankers and clerks and elevator hops but who have died in the pall of war.

It is more than the physical landscape that has changed, though that is a chilling reminder enough of what has happened, a hole now agape in the horizon where once the twin towers stood. The moral landscape has. America will never be the same. "We will not wake up tomorrow," as the same person who spoke on CNN said, "to the same America." Neither will the rest of the world. They will not wake up to the same America. They will not wake up to the same world.

Events like this are beyond politics. Whether you like the American government or not, whether you subscribe to American foreign policy or not, you do not jump for joy over something like this. I cannot for the life of me imagine how some people can, as shown on TV and as I have heard about the reaction of certain groups to the event. Surely if you have suffered from American atrocity, your first instinct will be to not wish it to happen to other men, women and children, including America's. You do not toot your horn and flash the V sign over the stiff bodies of people who might be you and me, or your and my children, you mourn it with all the passion you can dredge up from your soul.

And look askance at heaven, at a loss for words.

GMA tells Japanese investors: come to RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TOKYO—President Macapagal was scheduled to arrive in the Japanese capital late last night for a working visit, but her visit vies for attention with what has gripped the whole world since Tuesday morning (US time): the terrorist attacks on vital institutions in New York and Washington.

The President is coming here in the hope of luring Japanese businesses to take a second look at the Philippines as an investment site and convincing the Japanese government to give her government a chance to utilize Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to the Philippines, amounting to nearly US$10 billion, in a more effective way than her predecessor, Joseph Estrada. Attracting investors may be difficult to do, as the decade-long slowdown of the Japanese economy has affected many Japanese corporations. But perhaps the Filipino leader will be able to convince Japanese officials not only to continue giving out that ODA but even to increase it. One convincing argument working for Ms Macapagal is that her administration has been more effective in pruning down the gargantuan budget deficit she inherited from her successor, so that there may be some headroom this year of about $11 billion. She could argue that efficiency in one aspect could mean efficiency in another.

* * *

The Yomiuri Daily ran an extra yesterday morning about the "Terror from the Sky" and it was quickly snapped up by the public. The authorities here were understandably concerned about the fate of Japanese nationals from 31 Japanese firms that were among the 425 corporations, big and small, from some 26 countries housed in the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York. As this column was being written, 17 Japanese nationals were still unaccounted for.

It is an indication of Japanese efficiency, however, that within the hour of the attack, the government had set up a special headquarters at Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's official residence to deal with the emergency. This echoes President Macapagal's decision to call an emergency session of the Cabinet last Tuesday to assess the impact of the attacks in the US, and put the Armed Forces and police on the highest alert. Also within the hour, Japanese television stations were already flashing the complete list of Japanese firms in the WTC, the number of employees they had and how many remained unaccounted for.

* * *

My husband and I had just walked into our hotel room after a smooth flight aboard Philippine Air Lines from Manila Tuesday evening, when we caught on TV the American Airlines 767 plane crashing into one of the twin towers of the WTC, followed by another plane crashing into the other tower. From then on, like millions around the world, we were transfixed by the unfolding terrorism in New York and Washington, the two centers of financial and political power in the only superpower in the world. We saw how the towers crumbled like sand castles on the beach.

* * *

As I watched events unfold through Tuesday night, I had the feeling that things were not real, that I was watching a movie about the destruction of the US by terrorists. I kept recalling the movie "Peacemaker," starring Nicole Kidman and George Clooney, where the two stars foiled a fanatic group's attempt to destroy New York City with a very powerful bomb. Except that last Tuesday, the high drama was for real. Those simultaneous attacks were remarkable for their close coordination and the high-tech, well-financed planning by the perpetrators. The question that cries for an answers is, what forces on earth are capable of launching terroristic attacks of such magnitude? What the shocking attack revealed was the vulnerability of the most powerful nation on earth and the helplessness of the rest of the world. If even the Pentagon, the seat of American military power, could be attacked, who's safe?

* * *

The comparison is being made with Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor nearly 60 years ago, but unlike Pearl Harbor nobody has owned Tuesday's attack. There are reports that radical Muslim leader Osama Bin Laden could be involved, for it was reported that a US judge was set to sentence yesterday an associate of the Muslim leader for his role in the 1998 bombing of US embassies in Africa that killed more than 200 people. The sentencing was supposed to be held in a courthouse not far from the WTC. Bin Laden was heard boasting two weeks ago that he was going to launch something big in the US. There was an obvious failure of intelligence here.

* * *

The significance of the attack on the WTC couldn't be lost on anyone. If there is a building that serves as the United Nations of the finance world, it is the WTC. But more than this, a valid concern around the world now is whether the terrorist attacks would spread to the rest of the globe, and what their impact would be on the already weak global economy. It would doubtless take weeks for economic life in the US to normalize, which is bad for an already slowing down US economy. In turn, the downturn of the US economy would impact badly on the world. For instance, one of the worst-hit sectors of the US economy is the electronics industry, whose impact has affected countries like the Philippines and Singapore. Our exports thrived for so long on the software industry.

* * *

The impact of the attacks will affect the economy of Asia, where the Japanese economy appears to be in recession, and where the former tiger economies such as Singapore, Taiwan and Korea appear to be doing even worse. Japan's slowdown continued for a decade now, and while Prime Minister Koizumi is very popular here, there is discontentment over his inability to reverse the economic downturn. A recent survey revealed that Japanese now feel that things are worse now than they were a year ago. Japan's unemployment rate last July was 5 percent, the highest since 1953.

For the first time in decades the Japanese belief in the invincibility of big Japanese corporations such as Hitachi, Toshiba and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. was shaken after these firms began laying off thousands of highly educated people. A major manufacturer of computer equipment, Fujitsu, has announced plans to lay off 16,400 workers. Toshiba, a major electronics manufacturer, is cutting down 18,000 jobs and selling off its computer memory chip production. NEC is laying off 4,000 workers.

'Like Pearl Harbor'?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"LIKE Pearl Harbor" may not be the most felicitous comparison to the events on the morning of Sept. 11 in New York and Washington, D.C. For we all know what followed after Pearl Harbor, with not just the United States but the Philippines and all of Asia and the Pacific drawn into war against Japan.

Minutes after the initial shock at the sight of the plane slamming into the second World Trade Center tower had worn off, one wondered if this catastrophe had not ushered in a Third World War. For surely, the world's "only remaining superpower" would not allow this affront to remain unanswered and unavenged.

But nobody, at least officially, was mentioning World War III yet on TV, though of course President Bush promised retaliation not just against the terrorists but to any government harboring them. A local paper, however, dared put "WWIII" on its banner, though I was hard put locating a source for it, other than, perhaps, its editors' audacious imagination.

Still, the possibility looms, especially over citizens of small developing countries like ours. We can only watch with horror at horrendous events unfolding far away, but feel in our bones a fear that somehow we, too, will be sucked into this mounting terror. Before the dust settles as a consequence of the tragedy at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and even in that field in Pennsylvania, the world could yet feel the reverberations from those events as surely as if we were standing on the sidewalks of Upper Manhattan, gazing up in horror as two planes slam into those mighty towers.

* * *

ONE question that cropped up in most conversations yesterday was: Why did the World Trade Center Towers collapse?

Among the speculations was that a bomb or bombs must have gone off soon after the planes crashed into the WTC, finishing off what the hijackers had started. But the explanation, at least according to structural experts, is far simpler and less sinister.

The 110-story twin towers were designed to withstand earthquakes as well as impacts like that of a plane, Dahlia Lithwick writes in the "Explainer," an Internet site. The more likely cause of the collapse, said a structural engineer, was the resulting fire "exacerbated by the huge quantities of jet fuel present."

"When a fire ignites in a large building, its steel core does not melt, but over time it weakens. As the steel supporting the floors collapses, a 'pancaking' effect will result, with each of the upper floors collapsing onto the floor below. This is why the disintegration of the towers was not limited to the top floors. With the accumulated weight of each collapsed floor, the stacked floors continued to fall. This explains why the building collapsed vertically, rather than tipping over."

Big buildings are designed to withstand fire for between two or three hours, enough time to douse the flames and evacuate occupants. But the jet fuel from the two planes may have accelerated the process, "causing the fire to burn hotter and faster than any would have anticipated."

And with an estimated 50,000 people expected to have been in the towers, there couldn't have been enough time to evacuate all—or most—of them.

* * *

THE CALCULATION, the cold timing of the plane hijackings and crashes for just after the start of office hours, ensuring that offices would be occupied, send chills down the spine.

If all the perpetrators wanted was the sight of the WTC and the Pentagon, what commentators have described as "symbols of American economic and military might," in flames and falling to the ground, couldn't they have acted about two hours early, or waited till evening? Apparently, a horrific death toll was calculated into the equation. Indeed, this is action that smacks of "war." The crucial difference being that, unlike Pearl Harbor, the great number of casualties were civilians, non-combatants and innocents.

Among them are about 300 firefighters and rescue workers who dashed into the towers even as panicky office workers were clambering down the stairs. Among the dead, reported the New York Times, were some of the highest ranking members of the New York fire department, including the fire chief, the deputy fire commissioner and the chief of rescue operations. Included among the dead was Mychal Judge, one of the fire department's Roman Catholic chaplains, who had rushed to the scene to comfort victims, only to be killed in the collapse.

Did those who planned and executed this attack factor the rescuers into their cold-blooded calculations, too?

* * *

EVEN as we stared transfixed at the terrible TV images, thoughts of friends and relatives in New York and Washington assailed us. But phone lines were down, and it was only in the morning, thanks to e-mail, that we got updates on the people we love.

Ana Pascual, daughter of my cousin Ruben and his wife Mayang, was supposed to be working in an office just blocks from the WTC. But "too lazy to go to work," she decided to play hooky for the day. "Thank God for youthful sloth," was all her aunt Mitzi Zaruk, writing from Brussels, could say.

Let me close this piece with entries in Ana's journal, which she sent to her parents and which they, in turn, sent to our family e-group:

"I sat riveted to my seat as the first tower disappeared from view. Whispering 'shit.' These events leave us without words.

"Your brain is crammed with thoughts, not knowing what to think first.

"I was there last week with my cousin and his friends. I can see in my mind's eye what a Tuesday morning would have looked like. It's a working day, thousands of people go there to work and thousands more to the surrounding buildings. I was on the 'Top of the World' and as I looked across Manhattan, I took the sight for granted. I had been there before, it was nothing new."

Human feces for environmental enhancement

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE SUBJECT matter was most foul. But environment-friendly people responded to the invitation to discuss the subject that is taboo in conversations in so-called polite society.

Last week's "interactive discussion on Human Fecal Management for Environmental Enhancement" with scientists from Japan was the first of its kind. None of the experts brought personal samples, only research results and scientific ideas on how a human physiological product could be managed so that it does not defile, but instead, enriches the environment.

The discussion was serious—in fact, overly serious when it started. What with UP Anthropology Prof. Jerome Bailen introducing the topic and the guests as well. Well, he perorated on fecal matter like it was a newly found cultural treasure to be "treated with reverence and respect." He even brought in the words "theological and eschatological" while delivering his ode. That kind of seriousness lightened up things a bit.

The sponsor of the discussion held at the University of the Philippines was the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Manila Project and its local research partners. JSPS is an agency of the Japanese government that gives research funds to Japanese scientists and foreign academic researches.

Human feces, excreta, stool, shit, night soil. Call it by any name and it still smells foul—when freshly produced, that is. I know that Ilonggos have several names to describe varying consistencies. The most onomatopoeic sounds like roiling magma exploding to the surface in a symphonic crescendo.

Human excrement is hardly mentioned or handled even by those who claim to have a love affair with nature and things natural. Even after it is supposed to have broken down into nutrient-rich soil, people who grow edible stuff still do not take to it like they do to guano or other growth-enhancers that come from the bowels of animals.

Why do we reject what is ours? The answer could be cultural, existential, clinical, religious, aesthetic, from the profound to the morbid. Anal fixation in reverse? But that would be another discussion for Bailen to moderate.

Dr. Tadaharu Ishikawa of the Tokyo Institute of Technology presented the "Framework Study on the Recycling System of Organic Substances in Metro Manila for the Rehabilitation of the Water Environment." Ishikawa's team has drafted a system for recycling organic matter that would not use the expensive water treatment system common in developed countries.

First, Ishikawa shared field observations on the 25-kilometer Pasig River that flows from Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay. His team had examined the river's water and its sediments. I can't repeat the scientific jargon but translated into simple language, it is something like this: the water is alive when it leaves Laguna de Bay. As it meanders in Metro Manila, it is weighed down by pollutants. By the time it reaches the Malacañang area, its life is almost zero. (We all laughed at the metaphorical significance of this. The study was conducted in 1999 during the Estrada administration.) The river recovers a bit before it pours into Manila Bay.

According to JSPS, the origin of the Pasig's load is as follows: industrial (35 percent), municipal (5 percent) and domestic (60 percent). Much of the organic waste in Metro Manila comes in the form farm products (laced with chemicals). The Pasig River receives a share of the domestic sector's organic waste. (But industrial waste is surely more lethal, I would argue.)

The JSPS team also zeroed in on the domestic by-product that is the excrement of humans as well as other organic matter like kitchen waste. It had studied the toilet habits of poor people who live on river banks and in cramped areas and who resort to the "flying saucer" way of disposing of the remains of their previous day's meal.

"Bio-toilets" is one of JSPS's solutions to water pollution, water shortage, waste accumulation, flooding. It would generate jobs, rehabilitate the waterways and help in fertilizer production. The bio-toilet does not use water for flushing. The waste drops into a receptacle containing saw dust (or coco dust which is plentiful in Luzon). A hand-driven device attached to it is rotated to mix things up and hasten the biochemical process.

No smell, said the bio-toilet's inventor, Dr. Kageaki Kajiwara of Hokkaido University. The bio-toilet is a biochemical reactor that could take many forms. It could even look like an armchair and take its place in the living room. It could be in an outhouse or in a regular bathroom. They presented a sleek catalogue with different models.

The JSPS system: 1) on-site composting of organic waste using bio-toilets, 2) transportation of compost by small boats through water channels, 3) transshipping through rivers for populated areas, 4) production of organic fertilizers in factories 5) fertilizer supply for barren lands and farmlands.

The discussion generated suggestions from the guests who described to the Japanese the Filipinos' elimination and cleaning habits. (A few months ago the Plaridel e-group had a long-running cyber-discussion on Filipinos' anal habits.) Would water and soap spoil the biochemical process? Questions like this came up. Using night soil as fertilizer is not new in Asia, it was pointed out.

Two prototypes have already been installed at the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park. These should be better than the smelly portalettes.

What do you think? I'm all for it if JSPS would fund a pilot area and everything that goes with it. Anyway, the last word came from retired UP professor Ajit Singh Rye of India who is a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. A lot of things have been tried in India, he said. But the key lies in, first, immersion among the people, learning their ways. And that includes cleaning toilets with them.

My place

YOUNGBLOOD

SC

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TODAY, I will attend an execution: my own. I will watch it with both eyes open and I will not cry. I will not break down just because the man I have loved since forever will marry someone else. I will watch him promise himself to a woman who will never love him like I have. I will watch them bind themselves to a vow I should have taken.

I have loved Oliver almost all my life. I have known him since I saved his six-year-old hide from a bully named Ricardo who wanted to rid him of his two yellowed front teeth. I was five at the time, but having grown with five older brothers and a hellion of a sister, "Totoy Cardo" was a piece of cake.

Oliver was so overcome with embarrassment at having a girl to protect his scrawny neck that from that time on he made it a point to be the rescuer, not the rescued.

As time passed, muscles filled out this lanky frame and those two front teeth began to sparkle. He combs his hair, and he takes a bath daily now. In short, he has become a fine specimen of manhood.

The best part is, he lived up to his promise: he became my self-appointed guardian (well, I don't know if that's the best or the worst part). He was just always there, sticking to me like glue. It used to drive me nuts that he never let me out of his sight.

When I was 12, I ran from the infirmary on my way home. I had found out in the most humiliating way that I had become a woman: there was a big red stain on the back portion of my skirt. The jeers and the taunts followed me through the school corridors.

Oliver dashed after me and offered to accompany me home. I declined, of course. He seemed to understand my discomfiture and promised to drop later with the things left in school.

When I reached home I was told that I needed to jump three times on the stairs (which I did) and to wash my face with my blood (which I didn't do).

Oliver dropped by in the afternoon, sporting a black eye and a bruise on his arm. When I asked him what happened, he said he had walked into a closed door. I believed him. But a few days later, minus the dysmennorhea, I found out that Oliver got into fisticuffs because some guy made a disgusting remark about me.

Nobody had ever fought for me before that. And when you're 12 and discussing in class how King Arthur and fairest of them all, Lancelot, fought for Guinevere's love, you tend to get ideas. I loved Oliver then.

When we were in high school and I found out that the school's heartthrob and one of my most ardent suitors, Richard, was involved with a bustier girl, it was to Oliver that I ran. When I didn't graduate as valedictorian and I got so drunk, it was Oliver who took me home. He didn't even mind that I barfed all over his dad's car (which he borrowed without permission). When I decided to go to UP and he went to Ateneo, we celebrated by partying. When I lost my mom in a car accident, he took care of everything. When my dad followed my mom less than a year later after a heart attack, he was there again.

By this time he was an appendage of my life. He used to check out the guys I came to know. Nobody dared to get serious with me—not when Oliver had a black belt.

I didn't know how to define our relationship. I didn't know what we were. We definitely were more than friends, better even than best friends. It was like we were a couple, but formally not one. We did all the things that couples did like hang out and neck but always stopped when things got too hot. Since we never defined what we meant to each other, we never said "I love you" or whatever serious couple told each other. As a result, I remained a chaste princess while my prince caroused and sowed wild oats, but still had the energy to monitor my movements.

I didn't mind. After all, I was so sure we'd end up together. I always thought that in the end, it would be us. I loved him. I managed to convince myself that he loved me (what else could it be?). Little did I know that love doesn't conquer all, it only conquers the weak.

I didn't think he'd be so stupid as to get a girl pregnant on the same night they met at a party. I didn't think he'd be so stupid as to forget to use some form of contraception. After all, he had given me a lecture on safe sex. And I didn't think he'd be so stupid as to marry the girl.

But maybe I forgot that after all he was a man, and men have been known to be stupid about these things. Their brain is located in a region other than between the ears.

What could I do? Kicking him in the groin and punching him in the eye seemed like a good idea then. Don't blame me; he was the one who enrolled me in a self-defense course. But I did not feel better. Seeing him bent over in pain only made me angrier. I wasted my life for this lousy excuse of a man? I could not believe it!

I wanted nothing more than to run to him and beg him to wake me up from the stupid dream. I wanted him to take me some place where we didn't know anybody. No pain, no memory, no humiliation. I wanted to just forget it ever happened but since I flunked in the School for Martyrs, I couldn't, for the life of me pretend, it didn't happen. I couldn't pretend he didn't hurt me. I couldn't pretend everything was fine and dandy and exactly the way it was before.

We didn't talk for a month. For both of us who were practically inseparable, that was like an eternity. I ducked into corners whenever I would see him. I wouldn't take his calls. I wouldn't see him. And for some time hate was my reason for getting up in the morning, for breathing, for living. Hate and I became good friends.

"God brings men into deep waters, not to drown them but to cleanse them," somebody once wrote. I didn't want to be cleansed. I just wanted to drown in pain and misery and utter desolation. I wanted to wallow in the dark and deep pit of despair.

I know a thousand and one clichés that say this can be a blessing and that I should be thankful. But thankful is the last thing I'm feeling right now. I've always thought that there are three kinds of women: those who break, those who mend and those who are broken themselves. Before this hit me, I assumed that I belonged to the first or second category. Now I know I'm in the third—so hurt and broken up inside.

My grandmother used to say that there is nothing you can do about pain when it give you a silly grin except grin right back. All I could manage was a wry smile, a killer headache and the worst hangover the day before his wedding. Evidence of that is the disgusting sight of mashed potatoes and barbecue, thrown up not three meters away from where I was lying prostrate on the floor and the awful stench of cigarette on my hair.

Frankly I don't want to go. I want to wallow in misery in my messy room, crying, retching and stinking, surrounded with Michael Learns to Rock (whose songs are dedicated to the broken-hearted) CDs. But I have to go and attend the wedding. I have to bathe and prepare and put on that atrocious peach (it's not even my color!) gown. I'm not doing it for the groom, my one true friend and love, Oliver. Neither am I doing it for the bride, my younger sister, Sandra, who needs me. I'm doing it for my unborn niece who has the great fortune of having me as her aunt.

Call me stupid, but I've always known my place. If it isn't beside the man I was destined to marry, if it isn't behind my sister, who will take his name, wear his ring and bear him a child, then it must be with my niece, cradled close to my heart so that she will know both of our love.

SC, 22, teaches at a private school in Cagayan de Oro City while taking up postgraduate studies.

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LETTERS

TV series too racy for children

THE PHILIPPINE Alliance Against Pornography (PAAP) strongly protests the MTRCB's approval of the television series "Sex and The City" for airing over RPN 9. We have seen several episodes of this series on cable TV and have found the story line and language very sexually explicit. These make the series very definitely "For Adults Only."

We are therefore appalled that this adult fare has been granted a "PG" (parental guidance) rating by the MTRCB Review Committee composed of Benjamin Cervantes, Fr. Nicasio Cruz and Teresita Daza.

We call attention to Section 4 of the MTRCB Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of 1998 which states that "All Television programs...are to be classified as: GENERAL AUDIENCE ("G") or PARENTAL GUIDANCE ("PG"). The same section defines PARENTAL GUIDANCE ("PG") as "Material for television which, in the judgment of the BOARD, may contain adult material but may be permissible for children to watch under the guidance and supervision of a parent or responsible adult."

We now quote the reason for the "PG" classification given by the aforementioned board members: "Adult material about the sexual adventures of women and men without any commitments—pure sex without love. Strictly for adults. Teenagers should not be exposed to this kind of TV show, which seems to condone casual sex relationships."

The board members themselves say that even teenagers should not be exposed to this kind of TV show. How can they classify the show "PG" when "PG" material is material that may be permissible for children to watch with parental supervision?

The very words of the review committee can justify only a classification of Not For Public Exhibition ("X") since the MTRCB IRR does not allow a "Strictly For Adults" ("R") classification for television.

The classification and approval thus given to "Sex and the City" is contrary to law and must be revoked immediately for being null and void from the very start.

The PAAP views with concern the fact that the television series in question has been brought to the public by Solar Films, the same entity responsible for the infamous movie "Sutla," which is now the subject of two criminal cases in the Sandiganbayan. We likewise view with concern the apparent lack of concern displayed by RPN 9 for the viewing public, especially the children in even considering the airing of this inappropriate program.—**CINDY DOLLENTE-ANG, HENRIETTA SILOS MENDEZ, Philippine Alliance Against Pornography Inc., c/o Trinitian Center for Community Development, Trinity College of Quezon City, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City**

Lamitan folks' testimony deserve serious response

SEVERAL courageous women and men from Lamitan have already come out to testify that there was connivance between some military and local government officials and the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

I have personally talked to some of these witnesses. These simple folk just want peace in their town, and they are doing this at the risk of their lives in the hope that they can help stop the ASG from going on with their criminal activities.

It takes a lot of courage for them to testify in the Senate and the House and implicate generals and local government officials. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and tell the truth in the light of efforts of Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominquez to discredit Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and the clearance of the military by an internal investigation submitted to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

I was dismayed to read and listen to news that all the President had to say regarding the matter was that "it's demoralizing to the military and she does not have to comment on an investigation done by an independent body."

The President should consider the matter seriously since her governance is at stake here. In fact, she can take several actions regarding the matter.

For instance, she can instruct the Department of Justice to investigate the military personnel and the local government officials and take other appropriate actions necessary to prosecute those who committed "criminal negligence" and those who conspired with the Abu Sayyaf. The preventive suspension of the military officials and men who have been implicated is necessary while the investigations are going on. The probers can make use of some of the information revealed during the Senate and House hearings.

Men and women from Lamitan have shared what they know, in the interest of truth and to help stop the violent intrusions into their lives and land. We ask the government to make courageous responses to Father Nacorda and the Lamitan witnesses.—**AURORA A. PARONG, executive director, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St., Cubao, Quezon City**

High cost of medical care at PGH

THE PHILIPPINE General Hospital boasts of excellence in health care service and its commitment to care for the "poorest of the poor." But how can this premier state hospital continue serving the poor if it remains cash-strapped? PGH Director Jose Nañagas himself said that even if majority of its patients are poor, the reality is that no medical service is cost-free.

Such was the experience of Mang Norberto, 31, married, a cigarette and food vendor in Tondo. Feeling very weak, with swollen joints, fever and headache, he was diagnosed to have leptospirosis, a viral infection from the excreta of rats spread through floods. He was confined at the PGH for two weeks. Even though he was classified as indigent, he had to raise more than P2,000 for laboratory fees and IV fluids not covered by the medical social service benefits. Without his P100 average daily income, he borrowed money without ever knowing how he would be able to repay his debts.

In another case Ms Meriles who was suffering from renal failure was rushed to the PGH emergency room from the Ospital ng Maynila where she was earlier refused admission because the hospital had no dialysis machine. In PGH, she had to wait for three hours before being attended to, although she had great difficulty breathing. After this long wait, a resident physician asked for P2,500 as payment for the first session of hemodialysis, plus a P5,000 deposit to ensure that the hemodialysis could be sustained.

Unable to produce the amount, she was advised to transfer to a private hospital where apparently the hemodialysis treatment was cheaper and accommodation of the patient would be easier. The delay in treatment eventually resulted her death.

The PGH has turned health services into a commodity for sale. It has intensified revenue generation. Some PGH rates are not far behind the rates charged by private hospitals like the Manila Doctors Hospital. For example, hemodialysis cost P3,500 at PGH while it cost P3,000 at Manila Doctor's. Chest x-ray at PGH cost P285 and P395 at MDH.

The PGH has also established stricter collection measures. Its top priority is the computerization of operations to ensure revenue generation centering on billing and collection.

The PGH is one among government hospitals whose budgets have been slashed, forcing hospital administrators to find other ways of funding hospital expenses, thus affecting services. The hapless poor are thus for each and every service or medicine they need. Parroting the line that people have been used to free care or, worse, that no medical care is cost-free is nothing but a pathetic excuse that borders on blaming the victim.

The government cuts the budget for health because it views people's health as expense and not service or it sees health care as a profitable venture. A stop to this kind of logic is urgent.—**PAUL SALAZAR, MD, spokesperson, Network Opposed to Privatization (NOP), 233 Mayon St., Quezon City**

'Gang of Five' as bad as Abu Sayyaf

WHATEVER they say in defense of their integrity, the so-called "Gang of Five" in the House of Representatives has completely missed the point. By conducting hearings on projects with heavy foreign investments without any probable impact on national interest, the honorable gentlemen (are they really?) did as much damage to business confidence as the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings.

Instant communications transmit the hearings around the world. Investment plans are put on hold when news of the hearings reaches the head offices of foreign investors. And what does the country get for it? Investment funds earmarked for Philippine projects are diverted elsewhere. Hence, the biggest losers are the jobless constituents of members of Congress, who might have been employed in those projects.

Why the "Gang of Five" should focus on information and communication technology firms, which they probably don't know much about, really put their motives in question. It goes to show that they had no idea of the adverse effect on foreign investment of congressional investigations.

There's no more glaring manifestation of the Filipino's propensity for self-flagellation than what the "Gang of Five" has been doing. If they had enough sense of the negative impact on the economy that would be added to the series of headlines about scandals in high places, they would have realized that the time was most unfavorable for an investigation.

Worse, the five representatives questioned the motives of their colleagues who had the good sense to stop the congressional shenanigans. Even their imagination is faulty. They didn't realize that what they "asked" from witnesses invited to the hearings would spread like wild fire in coffee-shop talks.—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City**

An insulting challenge properly answered

THIS is a rejoinder to the letter of my three classmates—retired Lt. Gen. Salvador M. Mison and Colonels Felix C. Guerrero and Romeo A. Solina—which was published in your Sept. 5 issue under the title "Evasion is an admission of lying." They opined that the response of Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes to Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson's challenge "All right, sir?" should have been "All right, sir" if he was telling the truth. So when Reyes answered, "Your Honor, I am under oath," they considered the response to be evasive, insinuating that he was not telling the truth.

I beg to disagree. Reyes' answer to the insulting question was not evasive. It was direct and forthright. Neither did it mean that he was not telling the truth. He did not have to answer "All right" to affirm that he was telling the truth, because that was presumed, since he was testifying under oath. His answer then was correct and proper. It is unnecessary for Lacson to ask the question.

My classmates would have been right if the question was addressed by a PMA cadet to another cadet or by one PMA graduate to another in a forum of PMA cadets or graduates, but not during the Senate's Question Hour. The PMA Honor Code belongs exclusively to the cadets and by extension to the graduates. We, PMAyers, consider it so sacred that it should not be trivialized. For one thing, it is understood only by the cadets and graduates of the PMA, and therefore completely alien to the other senators and the audience. Posing the challenge to Reyes was condescending, if not insulting.

Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon has emphasized that the Honor Code belongs exclusively to the PMA cadets, and even commended Reyes for answering Lacson's challenge the way he did.—**ROSALINO A. ALQUIZA AFP (Ret), PMA Class 1955, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**

The ghosts of August (and September)

(I WROTE this column on the morning of Sept. 11, several hours before the terrorist attacks in the United States. Except for some minor editing, I have kept the piece as is.)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Nick Joaquin starts his novel "Caves and Shadows" with a chapter titled "August in Manila." He describes the rather "awful image" the month has, as one of great heat, generating feelings of malaise and of danger. It is, Joaquin observes, "the month of amok, when tempers cracked or crazed."

I suspect that August's rather ominous reputation may have been shaped in part by the Spaniards, who brought in the Mediterranean notion of "dog days" to refer to the warmest days of summer, around July and August. The heat—together with discomfort and disease—was attributed to Sirius, also known as the Dog Star in Roman astronomy, whose movements coincide with those of the sun during these warm summer months. Just as Joaquin characterizes our August as a month of amok, Westerners described people's temperament as being similar to that of the weather: not just hot but heated, with an element of the sultry thrown in. Others complain of how muggy the weather is, humid and sticky, leaving people feeling like they're loaded down with some terrible and unbearable burden.

In the Philippines, the weather is muggy all year round but it does seem to worsen around August and September. What makes the heat so intolerable is the way it coincides with the rainy season. "If you get broiled in March," Joaquin writes, "you feel boiled in August." That happens when the rains fall in August, even a drizzle is enough to release *singaw ng lupa,* miasmas (vapors) from the warm earth, which we look at as a cause of illness.

For the Chinese, August's heat takes on connotations not just of danger but also of evil. For the Chinese, the seventh lunar month, which falls around August and part of September, is the month of ghosts. All hell breaks loose, literally, because this is when the gods allow hungry ghosts, usually confined in some kind of underworld, to roam the world and wreak havoc. The seventh lunar month is therefore considered an inauspicious month to start anything, whether it be travel, marriage or a business. Even stock markets in the region, including the Philippines, falter as ethnic Chinese avoid buying new stocks.

Is August really a month of misfortune and irrational behavior? If we want to be scientific about it, we would have to review all kinds of records to check if there is indeed a rise in the incidence of calamities during this month. We would need to review the health department's registries of disease outbreaks, police records of homicides and murders, listings of transportation accidents.

We would also have to scour historical records. Offhand, I could cite the bombing of Plaza Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971 (the time setting, in fact, for Joaquin's "Cave and Shadows"), followed by the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Twelve years later, on exactly that same date, Ninoy Aquino was assassinated at the Manila International Airport.

But those are just two years. We would need to look through more historical records for other examples. Maybe historians in the future will point out that August 2001 was a month of terrible irrationality in our politics, what with our senatorial and presidential temper tantrums and accusations about law enforcers turned bandits and drug traffickers.

I wonder though if we worry too much about August. For all the talk of August as a month of violence, it is much more remarkable in its foreboding stillness. In June, July and August, we get the rains, mostly from the monsoon, with a rapid succession of typhoons which are not too devastating. The worst storms usually come later, in September or October, and occasionally even as late as November.

August, I feel, can also be the lull before the storm, weather-wise, politics-wise. August's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in 1971 created a yearlong lull before the coup de grace: Marcos' declaration of martial law in September 1972. Could last month's political fire and fury be a mere prelude to more turbulent, more irrational, times ahead?

No doubt, August's heat and miasmas breed diseases and incite tempers, but perhaps our ancestors created notions of dog days and ghost months to remind us to be more introspective of human frailties. If there is anything to fear, it is not a particular month or season but the ghosts within us. These ghosts lurk, preparing to unleash its destructive wrath by feeding on the greed and corruption, the bitterness and rancor, the prejudice and hatred, that we harbor in our hearts.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Why is governmentt cash-starved?

THE MACAPAGAL administration must be desperately cash-starved. It is not only poised to borrow again from globalization's enforcers, but the Department of Finance is also squeezing businessmen, particularly small ones, for more and more taxes. First it was the entertainers who were targeted to double their withholding taxes. Now, government fees of all kinds are being increased by 20 percent, using an executive order issued by then President Joseph Estrada to justify the move

These are difficult times for businessmen in general. The most ubiquitous signs in the business sections of Metro Manila and even in the provinces are "For Lease," "For Rent" and "'Property for Sale." The classy small restaurant at the second floor of Rustan's Cubao called Sizzles Bar closed recently. Its closure is a symbol of the times.

In some places, there are more empty than occupied commercial spaces. Portions of Aurora Boulevard and Anonas Street in Quezon City are good examples.

More employees are losing their jobs, even without a legislated minimum wage hike.

Why is the government cash-starved? Because it has allowed globalization, especially import liberalization, to destroy thousands of businesses and millions of jobs since the Ramos administration opened this country wide to it in 1994. From withholding taxes alone, billions have been lost as a result of the closure of Rubberworld, Aries Philippines, Firestone and other tire companies, Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, Union Carbide, Pfizer, etc., etc. And how about the massacre of the mining, textile, footwear, sugar, coconut, and many other industries?

The way to collect more taxes is not to squeeze still operating businesses, but to stop globalization from killing the remaining taxpaying business enterprises and to implement fully the constitutional mandate, under Section 19 of Article II of the Constitution, "to promote, a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipino." The current desperate revenue shortage is the result of policies which undermine production for the domestic market and relocate industries into tax-free export and special processing zones controlled by transnational corporations.

The contraction of revenues is a manifestation of the contraction of the Philippine nation-state, which has been forced to operate on borrowed transnational funds and now serves mainly transnational interests. Reliance on foreign debt is no less dangerous than reliance on drug money. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization are no less a menace to the Filipino people than the Triad.

How can we arrest the continuing contraction of our revenues when our government does not even have the courage to recognize its main cause: globalization?—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, lawyer, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301, Union Square Cond., 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

Children should know their rights

SOME adults think that child rights are invisible things brought from the West to destroy the minds of the younger generation. Indeed, there are adults who think that when a child knows his or her right, that child will lose respect for parents or any member of society. As Margie Holmes, a popular psychologist, put it "*nagiging palaban.*"

A fact that many people fail to realize is that when a child learns about his or her rights, respect would be one of the qualities that a child will have in him or her. Every society hopes and expects that its children will grow into capable and responsible citizens who will contribute positively to the wellbeing of their communities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the best articulation of this hope.

Children who are denied their needs and fundamental rights cannot be expected to mature into caring, productive adults who will respect the rights of others. Yet around the world, children are denied the rights that would enable them to survive, develop fully and participate actively. Rights violations and abuses are not only the cause of personal sufferings, they also sow the seeds of political and social discord, worsening into violent conflicts.

Rights issues touch everyone's life whether directly or indirectly. For the sake of individuals, families, country and global development, of which the International Social Service Philippine Network is part, children need to understand the concept of rights and their attendant responsibilities, to know what rights they are entitled to, empathize with those whose rights have been denied and to be empowered to take action on behalf of their own rights and those of others. Truly many child protection issues are closely connected and overlap.

The right of the child to express an opinion and have that opinion taken into account needs to be looked into. In cases of breakup of marriages, it is important that the feelings of the children are explored to determine custody.

Often, in the home when parents make decision concerning the life of a child, the child is never asked his or her opinion.

If children's rights are taught to them and their opinions are considered, many mistakes would be avoided. The rights of the child must be learned by the children themselves. It is our responsibility to make this happen. Today, not tomorrow because as Gabriella Mistral said "the child's name is Today."—**CORAZON ALMA G. DE LEON, chair, International Social Service, Philippine Network**

Remember Pearl Harbor: Survivors recall 'Day of Infamy'

PORTLAND, Oregon—Survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor 60 years ago reacted with particular revulsion at news of new aerial carnage: For them, the historical connection brought a special outrage.

"It made me sick," said Robert R. Neal, 81, of Milwaukie, a Portland suburb. "It was a complete surprise. And it makes me think about our motto 'Remember Pearl Harbor: Keep America Alert."

Tuesday's terrorist assaults on the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon reminded many Pearl Harbor survivors of the Japanese attack on US warships in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

Both came without warning, and they were direct attacks on American citizens during peacetime.

Tuesday punch

"They chose to attack with a Sunday punch, like it was at Pearl. This happened to be a Tuesday punch," said Julius A. Finnern, a past president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association who lives in Meno-monee Falls, Wisconsin.

"I feel like going to war again. No mercy," said Felix Novelli of Southhampton, New York, who was in Nashville, Tennessee, for a World War II reunion of veterans from the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier.

"We have to pick up the pieces and get together, and try to mend our wounds, but we can't let anyone step all over us anymore. There can be no leniency," he said.

At Pearl Harbor, nearly 2,400 Americans died, all but a few dozen of them military personnel. The deaths in the hijacking and suicide crash of four airliners were still being counted Tuesday, but most of the victims were civilians—airline passengers or office workers in the World Trade Center.

Important difference

One Pearl Harbor survivor, Clark Martin, of Richmond, Virginia, saw that as an important difference.

"The Japanese were military, and we were military. But in this case it was a sneak attack against civilians," said Martin, 85, who was an ensign aboard the battleship USS Pennsylvania in 1941.

"I just hope that the country rebounds from this just as it did after Pearl Harbor," said Martin.

In Hawaii on Tuesday, all personnel assigned to ships and submarines at Pearl Harbor were on high alert. The USS Arizona and USS Missouri memorials were closed to visitors.

"There's no doubt in my mind this is a day we should remember a long, long time," said Neal, who was a signalman on the converted destroyer USS Wasmuth when the Japanese attacked the American fleet. *AP*

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40%	249,600.00	34,131.00	23,590.00	18,882.00	13,558.00	10,929.00

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30%	215,700.00	45,881.00	31,712.00	25,382.00	18,225.00	14,692.00
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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Explosions shake Afghan capital

FIRES break out in Kabul early Wednesday after a series of explosions rocked the Afghan Capital. AP

KABUL, Afghanistan—Helicopter gunships fired rockets into the Kabul airport early Wednesday, hours after the devastating terror attacks in the United States, according to Taliban soldiers and eyewitnesses.

Three Taliban aircraft were reportedly destroyed, including a passenger jet of the country's Ariana Airlines, eyewitnesses said on condition of anonymity.

Opposition soldiers facing off against the Taliban troops barely 50 km north of the capital originally denied the attack, but later took responsibility.

"Our helicopters attacked the airport," said Waisuddin Salik, who was contacted by satellite telephone at the front line north of Kabul.

It was not clear why the opposition originally denied involvement in the attack, but it was believed it wanted to create uncertainty in the capital to fuel fears of a US retaliatory strike for the horrific terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Salik said the airport attack was in retaliation for relentless bombing raids by Taliban jet fighters on opposition territory north of the capital.

The Taliban were not immediately available for comment, but earlier they denied that an attack on the airport had occurred.

Kabul shuddered with the first explosions around 2:30 a.m. They came in rapid succession, seconds apart. Smoke billowed skyward. The smell of acrid smoke lingered near the airport, and Taliban soldiers in the area erected a barricade to block entrance there.

Less than one kilometer from the combined military and civilian airport, sullen Taliban soldiers with Kalashnikov rifles blocked the road, turning cars away. They grunted their orders, refused to speak and waved their Kalashnikov rifles, ordering vehicles to turn back.

"It was the airport that was attacked. A helicopter came in and dropped its rockets," said Abdul Jabbar, an elderly man walking along the dusty road near the airport.

"At first, we were worrying that it was an attack by America. But then I thought it is stupid to worry, our life is so bad what difference does it make," said Jabbar, a day laborer, who leaves his home each morning before sunrise to look for work.

The attack occurred during the nighttime curfew in effect in Kabul, and there were conflicting reports of whether it was one or two helicopters.

The spokesperson at Taliban's headquarters in southern Kandahar said there was no attack. He said the explosions were the result of a fire at an ammunition dump in the northern suburb of Khair Khana and that the sound of aircraft were Taliban pilots moving fighter aircraft to safety. The Taliban have helicopter gunships and fighter jets.

"There was an explosion in an ammunition depot, and our aircraft were flown to a safe place, creating a misunderstanding that there had been an attack. We deny that there was any attack on Kabul," he said.

Taliban soldiers stopped reporters going toward Khair Khana neighborhood, saying there was no explosion. It was unclear from Muttmain's statement why it was necessary to move the aircraft if the explosions were the result of an accident at an ammo dump in a northern neighborhood.

The United States quickly denied any involvement in the violence in Afghanistan, which has been shielding Osama bin Laden, a suspected terrorism mastermind linked by some US officials to Tuesday's attacks in the United States.

White House spokesperson Claire Buchan said the explosions reported in Kabul are not retaliatory attacks by the United States.

"The United States is not responsible," she said.

Her comments were echoed by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a Pentagon briefing in Washington. "I've seen those reports," he said of the Kabul explosions. "In no way is the United States government connected to those explosions."

Another US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the fighting in Kabul appeared to be rocket attacks by Afghan rebels opposing the ruling Taliban in response to the attack on a rebel general over the weekend. *AP*

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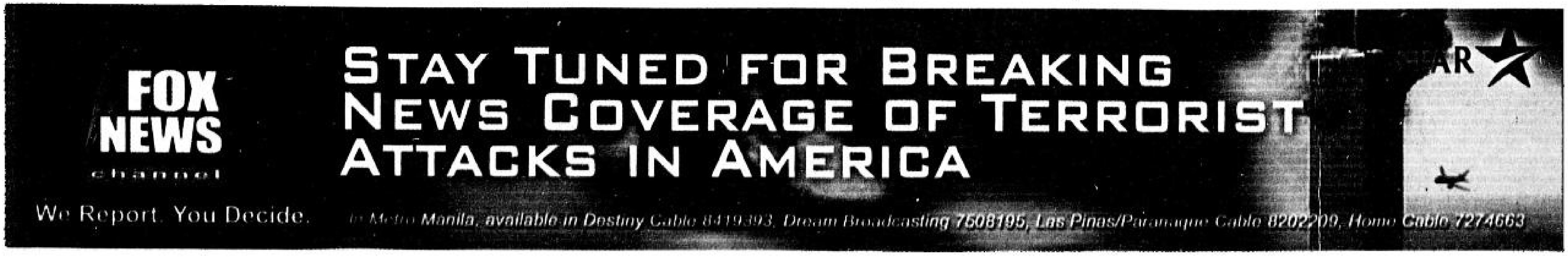
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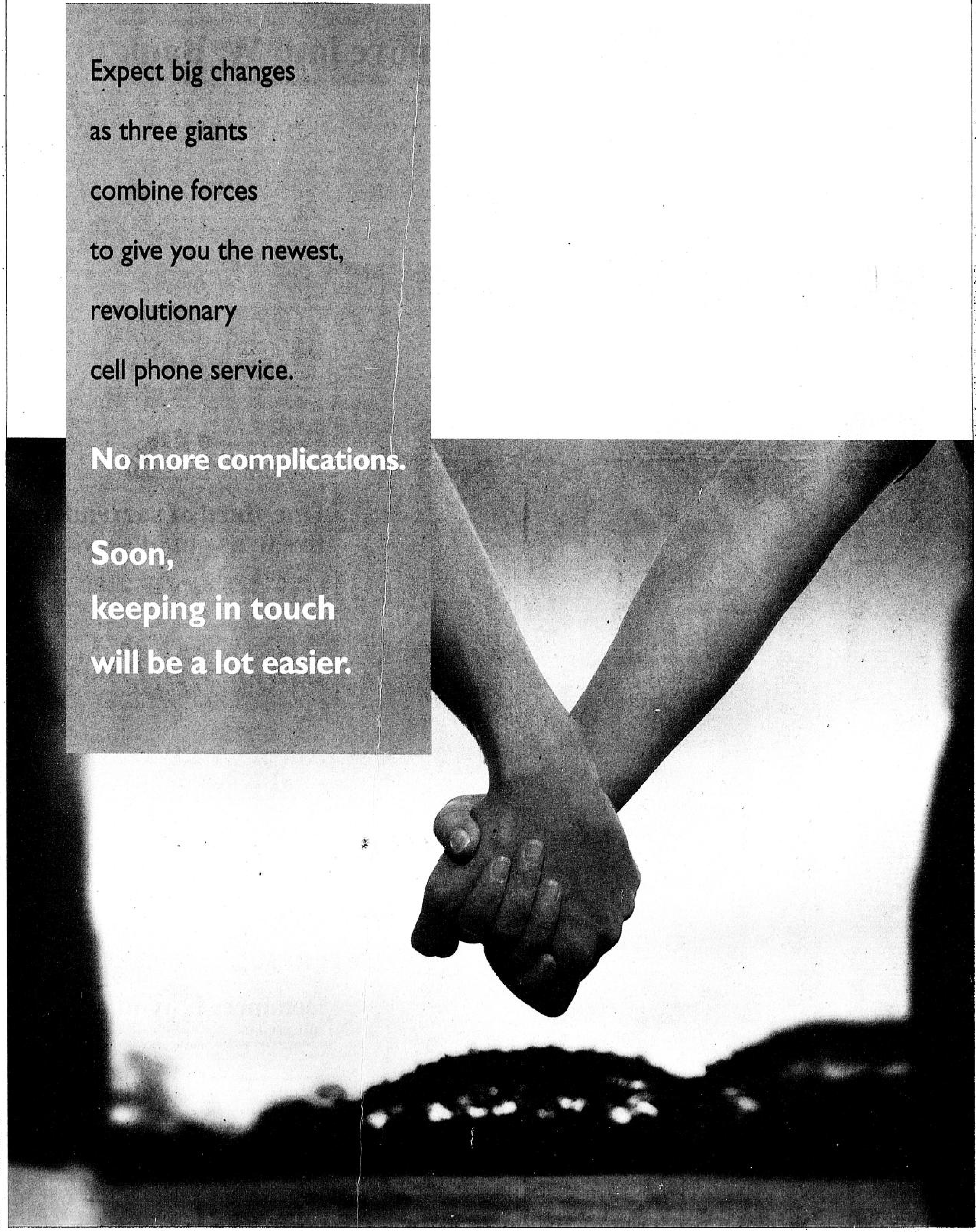
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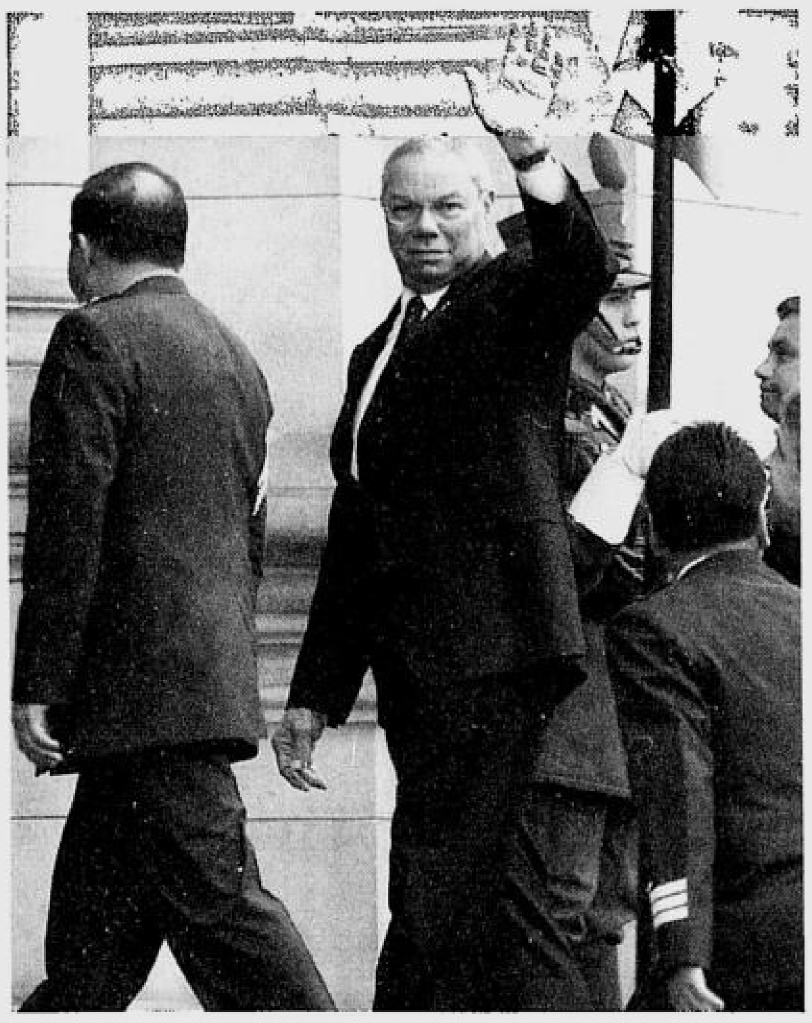

POWELL waves to reporters upon his arrival at the government palace in Lima, Peru. AP

LIMA, Peru—The attacks in the United States on Tuesday forced US Secretary of State Colin Powell to cut short a Latin American trip, but not before he took a stand for the kind of democracy he said terrorists wanted to destroy.

"They can destroy buildings, they can kill people and we will be saddened by this tragedy, but they will never be allowed to kill the spirit of democracy," Powell told Organization of American States foreign ministers in Lima.

The ministers were meeting to approve an agreement setting democratic standards for all 34 active OAS member nations. While his airplane was being prepared for the unexpected departure, Powell attended the start of the session.

"You can be sure that America will deal with this tragedy in a way that brings those responsible to justice," he told the ministers. "You can be sure that as terrible a day as this is for us, we will get through it because we are a strong nation, a nation that believes in itself."

Aboard his plane later, Powell called the attack "a well-coordinated extensive assault against the United States."

He said he wouldn't speculate about who was behind the attacks: "There has been no reputable claim of responsibility that's been made yet."

Powell's chief spokesperson, Richard Boucher, later declined to comment about how the United States might retaliate if it identifies those responsible.

Powell said he was in touch with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. He said he was unable to get a communications link to Bush immediately.

The secretary said he also was in touch with foreign leaders. The state department said he and Armitage have spoken with the heads of the United Nations and Nato.

Powell said diplomatic missions were put on alert and told to be in touch with host governments not only for security purposes, but also in case they had information about the attacks.

Powell learned that two planes had crashed into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center when an aide handed him a note during a meeting with Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo.

"As he looked at the note, he said 'Oh my God, this is horrible news,'" Boucher said.

Aides handed him two more notes during the meeting and Powell decided to return to Washington.

Powell had planned to travel to Colombia later Tuesday and return home Wednesday. With his plane needing time to be prepared for the longer flight, Powell decided to attend the start of the OAS meeting.

Boucher said Powell wanted to be "part of the democracy charter on the day that democracy was under attack."

The charter sets democratic standards for member nations, including free and fair elections, a separation of powers, free speech and respect for human rights. Nations failing to meeting those standards could be suspended. *AP*

Israel tanks move into W. Bank town

JERUSALEM—Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into the West Bank town of Jenin early Wednesday and tore down a police building before withdrawing at daybreak. One Palestinian was killed in an exchange of fire, Palestinians said.

The incursion followed a day of violence Tuesday in which three other Palestinians were killed, two in exchanges of gunfire between Israeli forces and gunmen in Jenin and the other in the Gaza Strip.

Truce talks between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, sent tentatively for Tuesday, were postponed when the two sides could not agree on a venue.

Jenin's vice governor, Haider al-Shae, said the Israeli tanks entered the compound where security services have their headquarters after midnight, and bulldozers tore down a two-story building where Palestinian police were headquartered before pulling out.

The Army said the building had been used as a "terror center" from which militants were sent into Israel to carry out attacks.

In exchanges of fire between gunmen and the Israeli forces, Mohammed Abu-Haijeh, 25, a member of the militant Hamas, was killed by a tank shell, Palestinians said. At least six others were wounded, three seriously.

Before daybreak Wednesday, Israeli tanks entered Tamun, a village northeast of Nablus. The forces planted and detonated explosives in the house of a suspected militant who had been killed in a targeted attack in July, destroying the structure, Palestinian security said.

In an ensuing exchange of fire in Tamun, Israeli tanks fired eight tank shells at an empty building, destroying it, the Palestinians said. As troops were withdrawing from the village, an Israeli helicopter fired at a car, injuring five passengers on their way to work at local farms, Palestinians said. The Army did not immediately comment on the incursion into Tamun.

The mayor of the village, Bashar Bani Oudeh, said that many militants wanted by Israel lived there.

In Jenin, exchanges of fire could be heard throughout the town of 50,000 at the northern edge of the West Bank. Tanks remained just outside the town after the incursion, Palestinians said.

On Aug. 14, after a previous wave of bombings the Israelis said originated in Jenin, Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered the town after midnight and tore down a police headquarters building before withdrawing.

The site of the Wednesday incursion was not far away, about 500 meters inside the town.

Israel has sent tanks into Palestinian areas several times during a year of conflict. Last month, Israeli forces held the town of Beit Jalla, across from Jerusalem, for 36 hours in an attempt to halt Palestinian gunfire at a Jewish neighborhood. *AP*

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One-third of surrendered firearms out of service

SKOPJE, Macedonia—About one-third of the rifles and other field weapons so far surrendered by ethnic Albanian do not work and may not have been used in recent fighting, military sources said Tuesday.

Such a tally would raise questions about the rebels' commitment to disarm and bolster objections from Macedonians who claim the peace accord will fail to cripple the insurgents' ability to battle.

Nato spokesperson Barry Johnson confirmed some of the rebel weapons were "non-operational." But he set the figure lower: about 5 percent beyond ordinary repair and between 15 percent and 20 percent needing some work to return to service.

The sources—from a Nato nation involved in the weapons collection—said as many as 35 percent to 40 percent of the semiautomatic rifles, machines guns and smaller arms were "out of operation."

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that many of the out-of-service weapons had missing parts and other serious problems. It appeared many were not used since February, when ethnic Albanian rebels began their uprising for greater rights, said the sources.

The Western-brokered peace plan calls for rebel disarmament in exchange for greater political and language rights for ethnic Albanians, who comprise about a third of the nation's 2 million people.

The extent of the rebels' arsenal—and its firepower—is unclear.

Under the peace pact, Nato agreed to collect 3,300 weapons by late September. Macedonian officials, however, have claimed the rebels could have up to 60,000 weapons, including guns, mortars and other rockets.

The Balkans—always a crossroads for arms—became flooded with weapons in 1997 when Albanian military bases and police stations were looted in nationwide chaos after the collapse of phony investment schemes.

Nato is near the midway point in its weapons collection mission, which is scheduled to resume Wednesday. Most of the arms surrendered so far have been assault rifles, such as AK-47s, and light machine guns, Nato said.

But Nato officials have warned that Macedonian paramilitary gangs could increase worries by ethnic Albanian rebels and hamper the success of the weapons collection. *AP*

Detainees boycott food

KUALA LUMPUR—Six opposition leaders and activists who are being detained without trial are refusing to eat prison camp food and cooperate with authorities, a party member said Wednesday.

The six are members of the National Justice Party who were rounded up earlier this year and accused of plotting violent street demonstrations to overthrow Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government.

They have been ordered held at a prison camp at Kamunting in northern Malaysia under the Internal Security Act, a relic of British colonial rule intended to fight a communist insurgency that critics say Mahathir uses to muzzle political opponents. It provides for detention without trial.

Cheah Kah Peng, a party official, was cited by the national news agency Bernama as saying that the detainees were boycotting camp food and activities to protest against the camp director's alleged refusal to discuss their complaints.

Cheah said the detainees would refuse to cooperate until their demands for better food and reading materials and looser restrictions on visitors and separation from each other are discussed.

Cheah said that their non-cooperation did not mean going on a hunger strike, but only refusal to eat present camp food. *AP*

Ship carrying Afghan refugees has no plans of changing course

HMAS Manoora heading for tiny Pacific republic of Nauru

SYDNEY—An Australian Navy ship ferrying hundreds of Afghan asylum-seekers to the Pacific island of Nauru had no plans to change its course after the terrorist attacks in the United States, defense department officials said Wednesday.

US authorities have identified Osama bin Laden—who has been given asylum by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers—as the prime suspect in Tuesday's devastating attacks on the Pentagon and New York's World Trade Center. Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in the attacks.

HMAS Manoora is heading for the tiny Pacific republic of Nauru with 670 mostly Afghan asylum-seekers on board for processing of their refugee applications.

Nauru and New Zealand promised to take the refugees after Prime Minister John Howard turned away 433 asylum-seekers rescued by the Norwegian cargo ship Tampa on Aug. 26 off Australia's remote Christmas Island.

The remaining refugees were picked up in Australian waters five days ago.

On Tuesday a court decision found the Tampa asylum-seekers had been illegally detained and ordered the 433 refugees be returned to Australia. The ruling did not affect the remaining refugees.

The government has appealed the decision and will argue its case Thursday in the High Court, but court officials said Wednesday it could be several days before a final ruling is made.

The Federal Court decision was "good for people smugglers but certainly not good for Australia," Defense Minister Peter Reith said Wednesday.

Defense department officials said Wednesday there were no plans to change the course of the Manoora, which would probably reach Nauru in a week.

Security at Australia's military bases was stepped up in the wake of the attacks.

"We've gone to a heightened state of security at our (military) bases . . . which means access is more difficult," a defense spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity.

Defense forces were also on alert in case there were terrorist incidents here, he added. *AP*

East Timor leaders meet with Megawati

JAKARTA—East Timor's UN administrators and political leaders Wednesday held their first meeting with President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who only recently recognized the fledgling nation's right to secede from Indonesia.

"We focused in particular . . . on the desire to establish long-term relationships, cooperation and friendships between this newly born nation of East Timor and Indonesia," said Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the world body's transitional government in East Timor.

Independence leader Xanana Gusmao and acting Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta also attended the landmark meeting, along with Mari Alkatiri, who heads East Timor's largest political party, Fretilin.

The talks were seen as a crucial step in establishing normal relations between East Timor and Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and ruled it with an iron fist until a UN-sponsored independence referendum two years ago.

The results of the plebiscite sparked an orgy of killing, burning and looting by the Indonesian Army and its anti-independence militias.

Abdurrahman Wahid, who became Indonesia's president shortly after the violence which claimed hundreds of lives, frequently met with Gusmao, Horta, and de Mello, both in Jakarta and in East Timor.

However, Megawati, a staunch Indonesian nationalist who served as Wahid's vice president, had refused to do the same, until now. She recognized East Timor's right to secede only after assuming office in July. *AP*

Thailand's free press faces rough ride under Thaksin

BANGKOK—Thailand's tycoon-turned-prime minister has brought a corporate-style approach to his government—and a marked intolerance for journalists who talk back.

Thai media are admired as being among the freest in Southeast Asia, and they continue to criticize the government. But since Thaksin Shinawatra took office in January, the senior host of a political talk show has been forced off the air and police have issued warnings to two newspapers.

Last year, even before Thaksin's landslide victory, dissenting TV journalists were fired from a television station partly owned by his business empire.

"It is a retrograde step against the way Thai politics has been opening up for the past decade and a half," said Kevin Hewison, an expert on Thai politics at the City University of Hong Kong.

Editorials have condemned Thaksin, and 70 senators have protested to the government.

The military governments that lasted on and off until 1992 used censorship and strong-arm tactics against the media. Thaksin is more subtle, critics say. They claim he uses his political power and financial clout as the founder of Thailand's main telecommunications conglomerate, Shin Corp., to manipulate state-owned and independent news providers.

Thepchai Yong, group editor of The Nation media group, said its two newspapers lost advertising from Shin Corp. subsidiaries since shortly before the election, after people close to Thaksin complained about their coverage.

"It's not something we thought would happen at a time of political reform in Thailand: a newspaper being punished for not supporting the government," he said.

Last year, ITV, the only independent free-to-air TV network, fired 23 journalists who complained the station's management had pressured them to slant election coverage in favor of Thaksin. Shin Corp. had recently taken a major stake in ITV.

To reformers, it was a sacrilegious blow against a symbol of Thailand's hard-won freedoms. ITV was started after the five state-owned networks failed to report a bloody military crackdown on a pro-democracy uprising in 1992.

Shin Corp. denies any interference, but analysts note ITV now clearly gives more air time to Thaksin.

"It's like watching a government channel," said Ubonrat Siriyuvasak, professor of mass communications at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University. "The government now has near total control of television stations in Thailand." *AP*

TWIN TOWERS REUTERS

Azad Massod (right), a 25-year-old with a height of 2.55 m, and Zainab Bibi (left), a 28-year-old with a height of 2.10 m, both from Pakistan, claim to be the tallest couple in the world. At center is Jordanian Younis Edwan, a 29-year-old with a height of 64 cm. Azad and Zainab are on world tour to prove their claim they are the tallest couple while Younis is trying to establish his credentials as the shortest man in the Guiness Book of Records.

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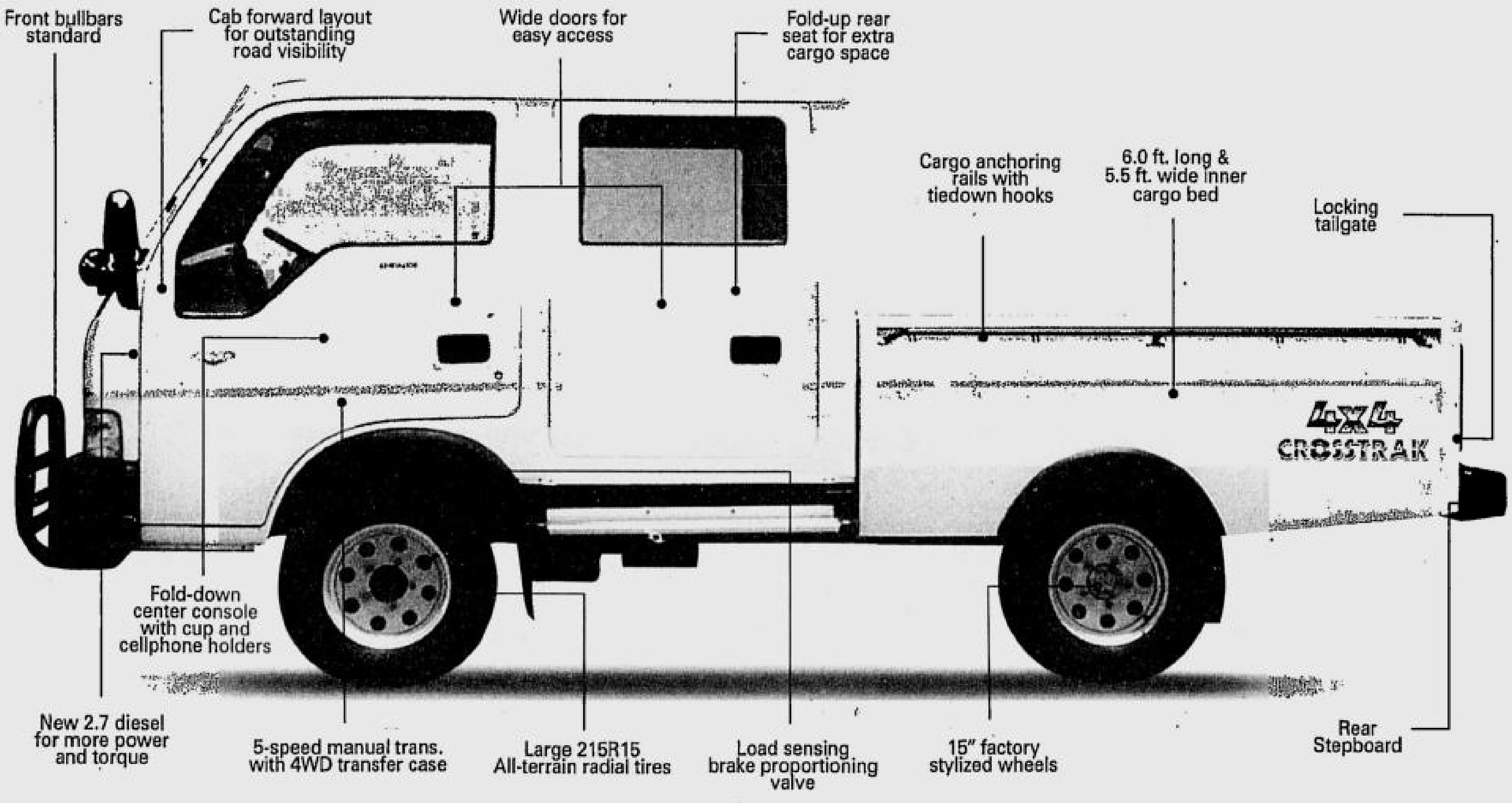
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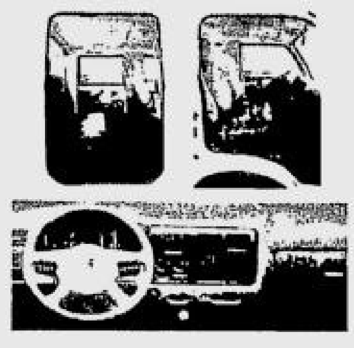

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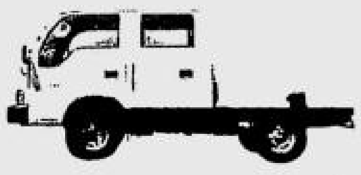

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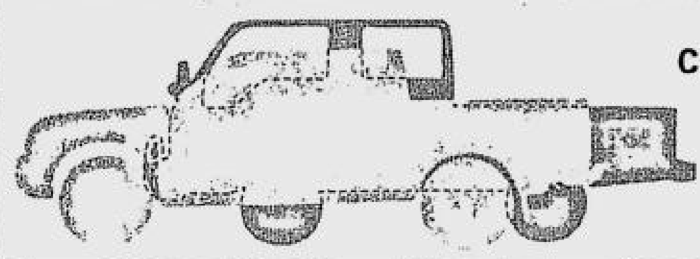

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Cargo bed length (mm/ft)	1828/6.0	1400/4.6	1400/4.6
Cargo bed width (mm/ft)	1676/5.5	1500/4.9	1500/4.9
Gross Vehicle Weight (kgs)	2930	2570	2760
Engine displacement (cc)	2665	2664	3153
DRIVE TRAIN	4 x 4	4 x 2	4 x 4
STANDARD EQUIPMENT			
Aircon/Stereo	✓	✓	✓
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Bullbars	✓	—	—
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy to Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/13/01

ROUNDUP

ROTC drill kills student

SAN FABIAN, Pangasinan—A student cadet from the Luna Colleges in Tayug town was shot and killed by a stray bullet during the Reserved Officers Training Corps field exercises in a remote village here Sunday, police said. Cadet 3rd Class Samuel Rudico, 18, died from a bullet wound in the chest when an M-16 rifle was accidentally fired during training conducted by the 105th CDC Army Company in Camp Abat in Manaoag town. Police said the rifles used by the students were empty while the service guns of their trainers were loaded.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Warning on dog bites

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial veterinarian office here warned the public against dog bites after 130 rabies cases were reported in the province since January. Dr. Augusto Baluyut Jr., provincial veterinarian, said only 20,000 of 180,000 dogs in Pampanga have been vaccinated this year. He said rabies cases have been found here and in Floridablanca, Magalang, Mabalacat and Porac towns. Baluyut advised dog owners to keep their pets in their backyards and to bring them to vaccination centers.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

₱4-B road project

CABANATUAN CITY—The Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Philippine government will finance a 30.3-km by-pass road that will start from Tabuating in San Leonardo town to San Pascual in Talavera town. Cabanatuan City Mayor Jay Vergara said the road project is worth P4 billion and involves the construction of a bridge that will span a portion of the Pampanga River here and 15 other small bridges.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fake check betrays gang

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicol police have warned the public against a Manila-based syndicate duping stores and banks with fake checks. Naga City police and officials of the Equitable-PCI Bank arrested Honesto Mazalarte, 27, of Sto. Domingo, Iriga City while trying to buy hardware using a fake check at a store in Naga City. The check amounting to P6,730 bears the Equitable-PCI Bank's logo and is not easily recognized unless carefully examined. Bron said Mazalarte was earlier arrested for the same crime in Iriga City and Naga City. He is now detained at the Naga City jail while police are hunting other suspected members of the syndicate.
Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Koran reading contest

COTABATO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo was invited to the 27th National Koran Reading Competition on Sept. 15 here. Hadji Kadatuan Endayla, director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, said Ms Macapagal would join envoys from Muslim countries. Two of the contestants from 26 Koran readers are set to represent the country in the International Koran Reading Contest in Kuala Lumpur in October. Institutionalized by the Philippine government in 1975, the Koran reading contest aims to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Muslim Filipinos.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dengue alert in Davao

DAVAO CITY—A dengue alert is still up in Davao City with three deaths and 271 cases recorded last month by the City Health Office (CHO). Medical Officer Luis Jose Presbitero, chief of the CHO's Tropical Disease Control Division, said the deaths are not acceptable amid stepped up efforts to combat the spread of the disease. In July, six people were confirmed dead due to dengue. Records show 15 cases were recorded in August. Tibungco had the highest number of cases with six followed by Panacan and Lasang with three victims each and Ilang with two cases.
Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

274 OFWs repay loans

COTABATO CITY—At least 274 overseas Filipino workers whose job placements abroad were facilitated by the Cotabato provincial government have started repaying their loans. Since 1999, the province had spent P14,496,301 for the placement fees of 274 Cotabato residents working in foreign countries. Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the OFWs have so far remitted P3,766,848 to the provincial government. Because of the good results, the provincial government will continue holding job fairs in the towns where the same assistance would be provided to qualified applicants. However, Piñol said the provincial government would like to lure more investments and industries so residents won't have to leave to find jobs.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

LEYTE STANDOFF

2 lay claim to House seat

BY JANI ARNAIZ
AND CYNTHIA A. BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—There are now two legislators representing the fourth district of Leyte.

The Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBC) proclaimed yesterday in absentia former Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. winner in the fourth district's congressional race.

The proclamation pushed through despite the refusal of Leyte Rep. Victoria Locsin to yield her congressional seat to her lone rival in the May 14 elections.

Lawyer Manuel Villegas, provincial election supervisor and PBC chair, said the House of Representative Electoral Tribunal (HRET) and Congress should recognize Codilla as the new member of the House because "all the legal impediments have been resolved with the proclamation."

About 50 supporters of Codilla were at the Small Medium Enterprise Development Center on Senator Enaje Street here to attend the proclamation.

Codilla did not show up but sent his two lawyers, Ramon Teleron and Ruben Capahi, as his representatives.

Capahi told the INQUIRER that Codilla was not allowed by his children to travel to Tacloban City for the proclamation for security reasons.

Codilla said he received information that he would be harmed by still unidentified groups.

Codilla, however, held a Thanksgiving Mass and a party at his residence in Ormoc City, Leyte to celebrate his proclamation, which coincided with the 54th wedding anniversary of Codilla and his wife, Maria.

"God really loves me," Codilla said.

After the Mass, Codilla took his oath of office before Executive Judge Fortunito Madrona of the Regional Trial Court in Ormoc City.

In his speech, Codilla said Locsin's refusal to vacate her seat would not stop him from attending sessions at the House of Representatives and from serving his constituents in the fourth district, which is composed of six towns and Ormoc City.

Locsin earlier said she would not step down because she did not recognize the order of the Commission on Elections *en banc* that declared her proclamation void.

She maintained that only the HRET could resolve her case being the "sole judge" of election related-cases involving congressmen.

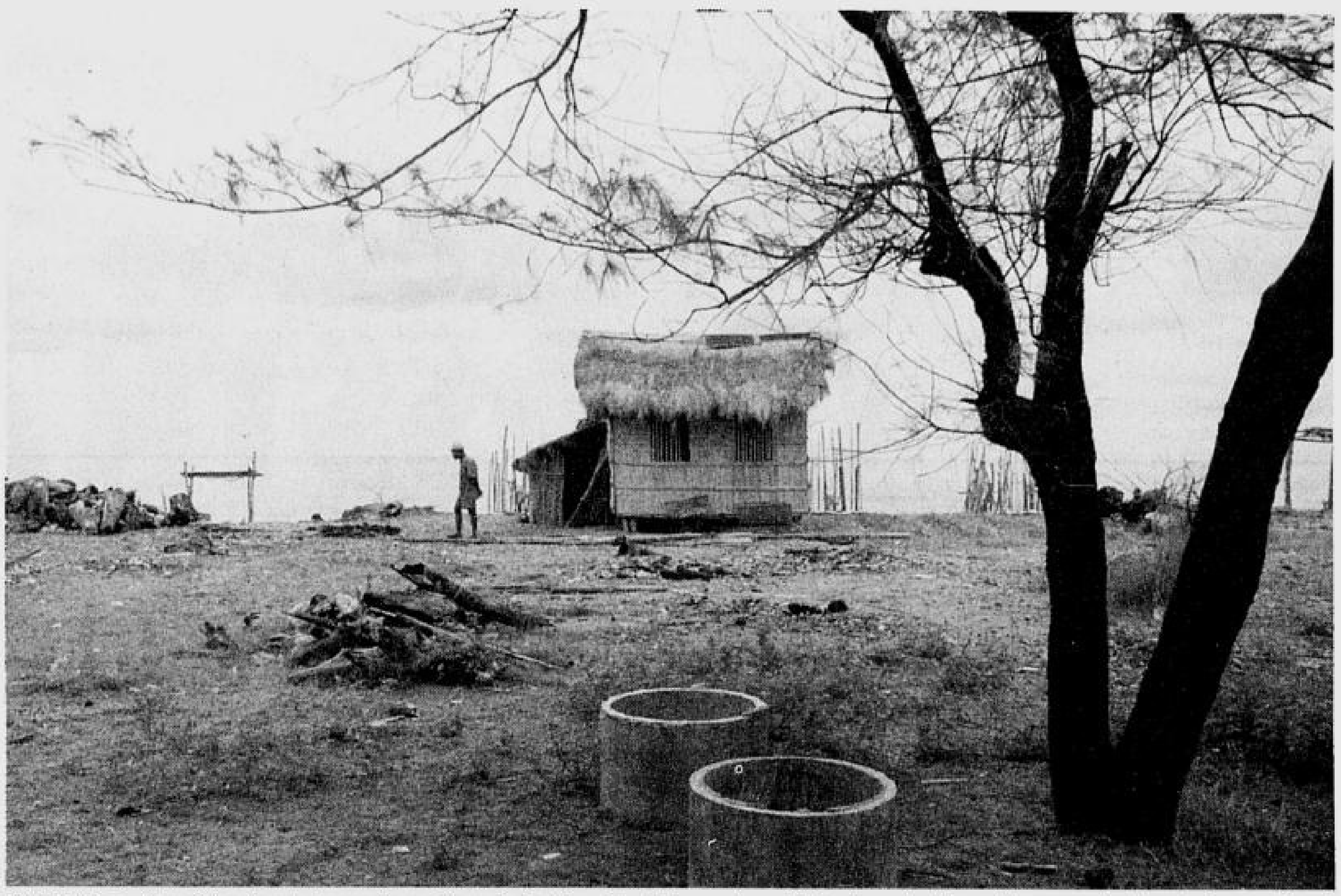
On June 14, the Comelec second division disqualified Codilla "for indirect solicitation of votes" during the campaign period and ordered the PBC to proclaim winner the candidate who obtained the next highest number of votes, who happened to be Locsin.

The ruling, which was eventually reversed, stemmed from the petition for disqualification filed against Codilla by a certain Josephine de la Cruz, a resident of Barangay Riverside, Kananga town.

But the Comelec *en banc* reversed the ruling of its second division and ordered Locsin's proclamation null and void.

In a decision dated Aug. 29, the Comelec *en banc* ordered the PBC to reconvene and proclaim Codilla as the winning candidate for congressman in the fourth district.

In reversing the order of its second division, the Comelec said Locsin's proclamation violated existing election laws and jurisprudence as the allegations against Codilla have not been fully substantiated or proven.



THERE'S no sign of imminent danger in a village in Botolan, Zambales, a town that volcanologists said was under threat of an outbreak of water from Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake. JOAN BONDOC

Volcanologists say town remains at risk

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Draining Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake has sharply reduced the immediate risks of flash floods and lahar to Botolan but the dangers are not over yet for the town, government chief volcanologist Raymundo Punongbayan and United States geologist Christopher Newhall said Monday.

The water level at the lake continued to rise while, on the other hand, the flow was too slow to ease the pressure of crater wall collapse, Punongbayan told the INQUIRER.

Newhall said until the loose materials in the Maraunot notch are scoured to the bedrock level, the risks of flash floods and lahar are "still present" in the town of more than 46,000 residents.

"All the materials (in the notch) are (prone to erosion). It is essential to remove these," he said, in a forum on the state of the Mt. Pinatubo lake.

The forum was held at the auditorium of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology in Quezon City.

The trenching, according to Newhall, reduced to half the 20-percent probability of lahar sweeping Botolan.

If a canal had not been built, he said a large flood of between 2,000 and 11,000 million cubic meters of water and lahar twice that size would have reached the town, located 40 km west of the volcano.

Punongbayan and Newhall both confirmed the need to dig the canal deeper to allow the water to erode the loose materials and hasten the flow of a bigger but not deadly volume of water.

Punongbayan earlier targeted one cubic meter of water per second. Boulders and the scouring capacity of the water are slowing the flow.

The plan to do more excavation is not possible now since Aeta laborers and the five public works engineers who supervised the canal construction have pulled out.

Newhall said two scenarios could occur during the rainy season. Rains have dumped some 200 million cubic meters of water in the lake over the last 10 years since it was formed after the June 1991 eruptions.

The first scenario is that the water will rise but would stabilize. But Newhall warned "there's still concern it may break in the future."

The second scenario is that more water would accumulate and the flow of water would be slow.

"There would be significant flood but not large. (It will still) require evacuation," he said.

Newhall raised concerns over Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake because 91 percent of 63 natural dams in the world have failed after less than a year.

"This is the reason there is concern," he said.

The team of Phivolcs geologist Mariton Bornas earlier said in a study that Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake has a "fairly high probability of failing."

Punongbayan assured that Phivolcs was "closely monitoring the situation at the crater-lake."

Two geologists are permanently stationed at the notch to observe the flow of water. Two other geologists are stationed in Botolan to receive and issue early warnings for lahar flows, he assured.

Residents in the villages of Bangan, Paco, San Paudpod, San Juan, Porac and Carael are being informed of the risks, he said.

Newhall also expressed worry over the skepticism that has developed among residents following Thursday's delayed breaching. The residents, he said, should heed the next warnings.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II in a statement refuted a claim by the Britain-based aid organization Oxfam that there was no close coordination among government agencies.

"This is totally absurd because I am a witness to all the meetings, dialogues, briefings and planning of all government agencies involved in the disaster management operations," he said.

Lacbain, while claiming there was sufficient food for the evacuees, did not explain why the residents in the six high-risk barangays were allowed to return.

Punongbayan said the people chose to return. "What is important is they're told of the risk," he said.

School ceiling falls, injures 2

CEBU CITY—Two Grade 6 pupils of the Toledo City Central School-second district were injured when the ceiling of their classroom collapsed about 5 p.m. on Monday.

The victims were identified as Maria Lilibeth Villahermosa, 12, and her classmate Rachel Amonsot, both residents of Toledo City, about 50 kilometers southwest of this city.

Villahermosa, now confined at the government-run Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, suffered bruises in the face and back.

Because of her swollen face, Villahermosa could hardly open her eyes. She also complained of a nagging pain in her back.

Amonsot was brought to the Toledo District Hospital. She only had minor injuries but she could hardly turn her head.

The accident on Monday was the second school tragedy to hit Cebu in a span of three months.

The first happened on June 5 at the Basdiot Elementary School in Moalboal where an eight-year-old pupil died when the walls of an abandoned school building collapsed and crashed on her. Two other boys were badly injured after they were hit by falling debris.

Education Secretary Raul Roco immediately ordered the Department of Education Culture and Sports regional office to investigate and penalize the school officials found liable for Monday's incident.

He told radio station dyLA yesterday that school officials should report the state of their classrooms to higher officials to prevent similar accidents.

Carolino Mordeno, DECS assistant director in Central Visayas, said his office already sent a team to Toledo to conduct the investigation.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cops to escort priests in Lanao

PARANG, Maguindanao—Police escorts would be provided to Catholic religious missionaries and members of the local clergy who continue to serve war-torn communities in Lanao del Sur, Chief Supt. Akmad Omar of the autonomous region police yesterday said.

The move came in the wake of the death of Irish missionary Fr. Rufus Halley from the hands of a kidnapping group in Malabang town Aug. 28.

"I will give them security escorts to prevent a repeat of what happened to Father Halley," Omar told the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp.

"Even if they don't request for security, we will do everything to secure them from harm, if they don't want close-in police escorts, we will be within the vicinity of areas of their work," Omar said.

Bishop Edwin de la Peña said he appreciated the gesture of the police but said it was the law enforcers' job to protect everyone.

"We appreciate that very much, especially when we are in the moment of uncertainty and insecurity, whatever offer for the safety of our priests and people is well appreciated," De la Peña told the INQUIRER.

Police have arrested one of the seven gunmen who acted as a driver for the suspects. He was the one who said that Father Rufus' killers are members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *Edwin Fernandez and Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'CRITICAL OBSERVER'

Bishop quits peace review panel

BACOLOD CITY—Bishop Vicente Navarra of the Bacolod Diocese has resigned from the government panel that was formed to review the peace agreement entered into by the Estrada administration and a communist faction.

Navarra submitted on Monday his resignation letter to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez who heads the government review panel.

The bishop told the INQUIRER that he decided to give up his membership in the panel because "I want to be more of a critical observer (of) the whole process."

He said he believed that he could be more helpful if he no longer belongs in the panel. "Personally I don't feel comfortable in the panel," he said.

In a separate interview, Golez told the INQUIRER that he would try to convince the bishop to reconsider his decision.

President Macapagal-Arroyo formed a seven-man panel to review the provisions of the peace agreement signed on Dec. 10 last year by the Estrada administration and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido Manggagawa ng Pilipinas.

The RPM-P's military arm, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) operates nationwide but the bulk of its forces is on Negros Island.

The primary task of the review panel was to come up with guidelines for the smooth implementation of the provisions of the agreement.

Golez said the panel has completed its report, which will be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her approval.

Among their recommendations was the creation of a committee to monitor compliance with the agreement by both parties.

Navarra, however, said he would have wanted the agreement to explicitly say that the RPA-ABB was not allowed to carry out police functions. But, he added, the panel's report was silent on this aspect.

Golez stressed that the rebel group does not have any police powers. The panel even recommended that police strictly monitor the RPA-ABB's movements and check if they carry firearms around the province.

Concerns had been raised in Negros Occidental over the police functions of the RPA-ABB. Members of the rejectionist faction have summoned people for questioning and have arrested wanted persons on behalf of the police.

Ma. Lourdes Tison, another member of the panel, said she, too, has strong reservations about the final report. She said she wanted a clarification on the peacekeeping role of the RPA-ABB. She said that this be spelled out in the final report.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Jailed Chinese claim ignorance of drug deals

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Chinese nationals, whom former police spy Mary Ong alias Rosebud referred to in her Senate hearing testimony on a faked Baguio kidnapping, said they appreciated her "help."

But Chung Hsiao Tseng and Leong Kuan told the INQUIRER Monday that they remained clueless about a connection between the Jan. 8, 2000 kidnapping of three Chinese businessmen and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force headed at the time by then Director General Panfilo Lacson.

Chung and Leong have been detained at the Baguio City jail for almost 19 months, since their arrest for the abduction of Liu Ya Wu, Sin Ho and Jia Xuan Zhey.

Ong testified that the three victims were actually abducted and tortured by PAOCTF agents to obtain vital information on a pending drug transaction which, she said, the police planned to hijack.

Chung was convicted by a regional trial court judge in January this year for the lesser crime of illegal detention, and not for the kidnapping of Liu, Sin and Jia, said City Prosecutor Erdolfo Balajadia.

Lacson filed the kidnapping case here on Jan. 13, 2000, on behalf of the PAOCTF, court documents revealed.

But Balajadia said neither the Department of Justice nor the Philippine National Police were able to present Liu, Sin and Jia or principal witness Cai Yanhua, Sin's wife, for the trial.

Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here cited these same judicial lapses when he convicted Chung for illegal detention, and acquitted Leong, in a decision issued on Jan. 25 this year. Leong was also convicted for possessing illegal narcotics.

Both Chinese migrants are still facing charges of illegal gun possession, filed here by city prosecutors.

Arrests

Chung, who claims to be the driver of a Baguio-based Chinese-Filipino family, and Leong, the family cook, said they were arrested separately on Jan. 11, the day of the purported government rescue operation for kidnap victims Liu, Sin and Jia.

"*Hanggang ngayon, hindi ko alam bakit kulong kami . . . hindi namin nakikita pa* accusers *namin. Hindi pa namin masabi kung bakit kami kulong sa* kidnapping. *Pero hindi namin kilala si* Lacson. *Sa diyaryo lang. Hindi naning alam mga* PAOCTF, *hindi ko maalala ang pangalan nila* (Until today, we still do not know why we were arrested . . . we even haven't encountered the people who accused us of these crimes. We can't say why we were accused of kidnapping. But we never met Lacson. We only know of him from the newspapers. Nor do we know the agents of the PAOCTF, because we can't remember their names)," related Chung in Filipino.

But he said the PAOCTF treated them well, during their detention.

"*Tinali nila mata namin . . . hindi namin alam kung saan kami . . . pero maganda trato sa amin. Hindi naman masama* PAOCTF (We were blindfolded and taken to a destination we still did not recognize, but we were not treated shabbily by the PAOCTF. They were not at all abusive)," said Chung.

He said he was arrested at 3 a.m. Jan. 11 in a house that supposedly held Liu, Sin and Jin while Leong was arrested on his way to the market here at 6 a.m. of the same day.

"*Sundo lang ako ng asawa ng* boss *ko, tapos wala siya doon, kaya pinatulog na lang ako* (I was only asked to pick up the husband of my boss, but he was not around, so they told me to just sleep over there until he arrived)," Chung said.

Court records showed that the rescue operation was a result of an earlier drug enforcement operation.

Joint police teams from the PAOCTF and the local police conducted surveillance operations on a house in Johnbee Village, on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Benjamin Buena of the municipal trial court here to deter a narcotics transaction, said Assistant Chief Prosecutor Benedicto Carantes, who first oversaw the PAOCTF case.

Drug case

"But the drug case began with the kidnapping case, that's clear in my documents," he said.

The same records noted that the PAOCTF was alerted to the abductions by Sin's wife, Cai Yanhua, who claimed to have released 60,000 Hong Kong dollars to ransom her husband on Jan. 10, 2000.

The subsequent surveillance kept tabs on Shiang Hai Chua, Antonio Lim Kao and Tony Lim, who were sighted in Johnbee Village.

The INQUIRER agreed to keep the name of his employer in confidence for the meantime, but Chung confirmed that the man he was supposed to pick up on Jan. 11, 2000 was actually Chua, one of the three other suspects accused of the January 2000 abductions and his employer's husband.

Chua, Kao and Lim are currently state fugitives, and where charged in absentia before the sala of Ayson.

Chung said he had no recollection of a drug deal, nor was he aware of the three victims.

Ayson, however, convicted him for the abduction and for drug possession.

Police identified Chung as the victims' alleged guard, whom they saw carrying a .38 cal. revolver during a midnight surveillance operation.

Ayson also noted that Chung was arrested on the strength of Buena's warrant, which he ruled as a righteous arrest.

Police had recovered 16.22 grams of shabu, according to Ayson.

But the judge also raised serious questions about the prosecution's handling of the case.

"Since Sin Ho, Liu Yao Wu and Jia Xuan Zheng did not appear in court to testify, there is no evidence showing the circumstances, duration, ransom and cause of the detention of the victims . . . Whether their detention was committed for the purpose of extorting ransom . . . cannot be known from them . . . hence, the elements of kidnapping for ransom charged were not established although they were detained," Ayson said.

"The prosecution likewise failed to present Cai Yanhua . . . who was allegedly the source of the information regarding the kidnapping for ransom. She would have been a vital witness considering that apart from being the wife of Sin Ho, she allegedly supplied important details to the rescue team which eventually led to the recovery of the three victims as she in fact led the PAOCTF to the lair at Johnbee Village where the victims were detained."

"Third, the rescue team . . . (does) not actually know why the three were in handcuffs and chains or the purpose for which they were being detained or deprived of their liberty and for how long. They had no personal knowledge as to when the detention commenced, who are the persons behind it and what the circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense were."

Evidence

Balajadia said his office only handled the case on behalf of the Department of Justice and the PNP. Pieces of evidence pertaining to the kidnapping, which Ayson cited, were never in their control, he said.

But Balajadia said they managed to present stronger evidence for the Chinese inmates' pending charges for illegal gun possession.

"I have seen (Rosebud's) testimony on television, I have listened to the radio, I have read the newspaper accounts, and I will still not be influenced by this until we can obtain clearer facts. Our case after all is still based on facts. But please note that we obtained a conviction before Rosebud's testimony, so we assume that the government's evidence was still untainted," Balajadia said.

He also brushed off Ong's claims that the victims were actually Triad members being tortured by the PAOCTF for information.

Balajadia said the claims would have been raised in court because of the two Chinese suspects.

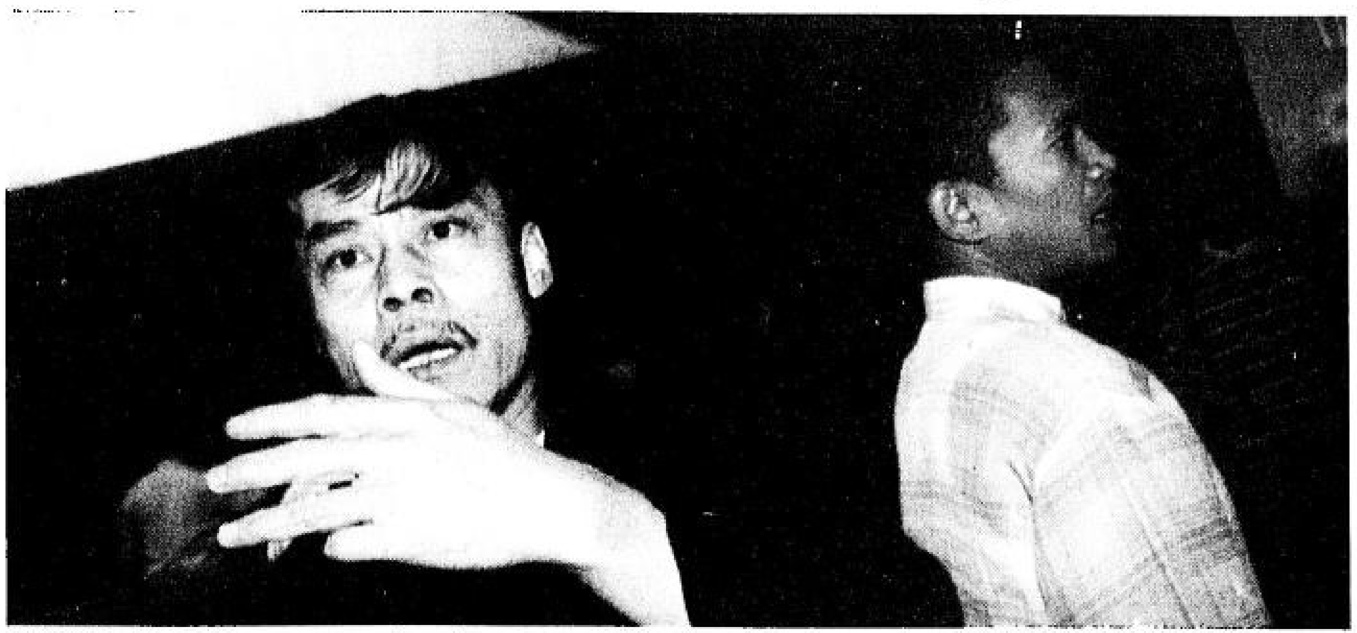
"In fact, during the trial, the suspects could not speak Filipino or English, or made it appear they could not speak well except Chinese. You needed an interpreter to get the message across," said Carantes.

But the two spoke conversational Filipino during the INQUIRER interview.

Chung stressed that he had no knowledge about the Triad, which Ong and Chief Supt. Romeo Acop talked about during the Senate hearings.

He said he was a legal alien, bearing proper documentation since he arrived here in 1978 when he decided to marry and raise a family here in Baguio.

Kuan said he arrived here in 1983, and had also raised a family. He now has a teenage son. Chung said he is raising two children from a failed marriage, and two more from a recent Baguio relationship.



CHUNG Shiao Cheng appears apprehensive as he walks to a Baguio court for the trial of illegal detention charges filed against him. Chung was one of three Chinese whose names were mentioned in Rosebud's testimony in the Senate. EV ESPIRITU

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Paco, Manila
564-3818

Visayas Avenue
416 Visayas Ave. cor Tandang Sora Ave., Q.C.
456-1100

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2/F FBR Arcade Katipunan Ave.
Quezon City
435-4545

Pioneer
Pioneer Center, Pioneer St. cor United and Brixton Sts., Pasig City
634-7153/ 634-7088

Dela Rosa Makati
UG/F, #49
Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condominiums
7648 Dela Rosa St. Makati City
893-3322 / 893-3331

Marikina
DC Arcadia Building. Gen. Ordonez St. cor. Bugallon
Concepcion Marikina
941-1260

Harrison Plaza
2/F Area II, Space 38 A, Harrison Plaza
Mabini Adriatico Sts.
Malate Manila
532-7136

Panay Ave.
Corner Scout Borromeo, Panay Ave. Quezon City
410-7976

Fairview
B4 L12 Unit A
Medows Foodmart Bldg. II
Fairview Ave. East Fairview Park, Q.C.
939-7998 / 938-1796

Ortigas Extension
Ground Floor Samson Bldg.
(in front of Ever Gotesco Mall)
Ortigas Extension, Pasig City
656-3618

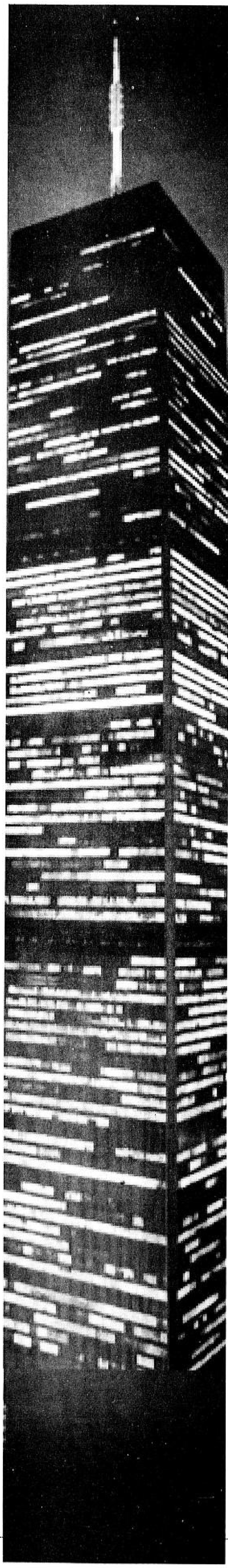
SM City Bacoor
Unit 314 A
3rd Floor SM City Bacoor
Bacoor Cavite
(046) 417-5188

Tutuban Mall
D-110 A/U Center Mall 1,
Tutuban, CM Recto Manila
255-3986

Kalayaan Avenue
128 Odalco Building
Kalayaan Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City
436-7777

INSIDE THE TOWER

Before terrorists brought down New York's World Trade Center twin towers, the 110-story buildings were home to a variety of businesses. The companies in the World Trade Center made it one of the world's busiest buildings.



SOUTH TOWER

	COMPANY	BUSINESS	FLOOR
100s	Chen, Lin, Li & Jiang	Investments	107
	Atlantic Bank of New York	Financial Institution	106
	Sandler O'Neill & Partners	Investments	104
	AON Corporation	Insurance	100
90s	AON Corporation	Insurance	99
	Regus Business Centres	Employment Agency	97
	Regus Business Centres	Employment Agency	96
	Regus Business Centres	Employment Agency	95
	Regus Business Centres	Employment Agency	94
	Regus Business Centres	Employment Agency	93
	AON Corporation	Insurance	92
	Gibbs & Hill	Engineers	91
	Raytheon Co	Manufacturing	91
	Fiduciary Trust Co. Intl.	Financial Institution	90
80s	Fiduciary Trust Co. Intl.	Financial Institution	89
	Fiduciary Trust Co. Intl.	Financial Institution	88
	Corporation Service Co.	Not available	87
	Gibbs & Hill	Engineers	87
	NY Dept. of Taxation & Finance	Government	86
	Harris Beach & Wilcox	Attorneys	85
	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods	Investments	85
	bopaid.com	Not available	84
	NY Dept. of Taxation & Finance	Government	82
70s	Fuji Bank	Financial Institution	79
	First Commercial Bank	Financial Institution	78
	Garban Intercapital	Not available	74
50s	Garban Intercapital	Not available	59
	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods	Investments	58
	Dow Jones & Co.	Printers/Publisher	57
	Garban Intercapital	Not available	56
	Garban Intercapital	Not available	55
	Dow Jones & Co.	Printers/Publisher	54
40s	Seabury & Smith	Insurance	49
	Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.	Insurance	48
	Guy Carpenter	Insurance	47
	Garban Intercapital	Not available	46
	Morgan Stanley	Investments	43
	Starlong Intl. USA	Not available	40
	Washington Mutual	Not available	40
30s	Washington Mutual	Not available	38
	Guy Carpenter	Insurance	38
	ABNAMRO	Mortgage Brokers	35
	Frenkel & Co.	Insurance	35
	Starlong Intl. USA	Not available	34
	Commerzbank Capital Markets	Investments	32
	Oppenheimer Funds	Investments	31
	Hartford Steam Boiler	Insurance	30
	Weatherly Securities Corp.	Investments	30
20s	Weatherly Securities Corp.	Investments	29
	Big A Travel Agency	Travel	28
	Hua Nan Commercial Bank Ltd.	Financial Institution	28
	Law Office of Joseph Bellard	Attorneys	28
	New York Stock Exchange	Financial	28
	Big A Travel Agency	Travel	26
	Sun Microsystems	Computer Services	25
	Allstate Insurance Co	Insurance	24
	China Chamber of Commerce	Organizations	24
	December First Productions	Not available	24
	Globe Tour & Travel	Travel	24
	Sinotion	Not available	24
	TD Waterhouse Group	Investments	24
	SCOR U.S. Corporation	Insurance	23
	Unistrat Corporation of America	Consultants	23
	Antal Intl.	Employment Agency	22
	Sinochem American Holdings	Investments	22
	Washington Mutual	Not available	22
	Candia Shipping	Wholesalers	22
	Adecco SA	Employment Agency	21
	Career Engine	Research	21
	Charoen Pokphand USA	Transport/Utility	21
	Candia Shipping	Wholesalers	21
	Thacher, Proffitt & Wood	Attorneys	20
	Adecco SA	Employment Agency	20
10s	NY Shipping Association	Transportation	19
	Waterfront Commission of NY Harbor	Government	19
	Abad, Castilla and Mallonga	Attorneys	18
	Alliance Consulting	Consultants	18
	Caserta & Co.	Not available	18
	Chen, Lin, Li, & Jiang	Investments	18
	Intera Group	Employment Agency	18
	Prios Investment	Investment	18
	Professional Assistance & Consulting	Consultants	18
	Showtime Pictures	Business Services	18
	Worland Intl	Investments	18
	N.Y. Institution of Finance	Consultants	17
	National Development & Research Inst.	Research	16
	Candia Shipping	Wholesalers	15
	James T. Rainer, Law Office of	Attorneys	15
	John J. McMullen Associates	Engineers	15
	John W. Loofbourrow Associates	Investments	15
	Mancini Duffy	Architects	15
	Orient Intl.	Not available	15
	Chama Chemicals	Manufacturing	14
	Paging Network of New York	Telecommunication	14
	Palinka Intl. (USA)	Business Services	14
	Union Bank of California Intl.	Financial Institution	14
	EuroBrokers	Investments	12
	Paging Network of New York	Telecommunication	12
0s	Verizon Communications	Telecommunication	9
	Colortek Kodak Imaging Center	Business Services	1
	Nichols Foundation	Government-Schools	Ground
	Johnston & Murphy	Not available	Concourse
	Xerox Document Co.	Manufacturing	Basement
	Continental Insurance Co.	Insurance	Not available

NORTH TOWER

	COMPANY	BUSINESS	FLOOR
100s	Channel 11 (WPIX)	Television	110
	Channel 2 (WCBS)	Television	110
	Channel 31 (WBIS)	Television	110
	Channel 47 (WNJU)	Television	110
	Channel 5 (WNYW)	Television	110
	CNN	Television	110
	Greatest Bar on Earth	Bar	107
	World Trade Club	NA	107
	Windows on the World	Retailers	106
	Cantor Fitzgerald Securities	Investments	105
	Channel 4 (NBC)	Television	104
	The NishiNippon	Banks/Financial	102
	Cantor Fitzgerald Securities	Investments	101
	Kidder Peabody & Co.	Banks/Financial	101
	Marsh USA	Insurance	100
90s	Fred Alger Management	Investments	93
	Marsh USA	Insurance	93
	American Bureau of Shipping	Engineers	91
	American TCC Intl. Group	Investments	90
	The Chugoku Bank	Banks/Financial	90
80s	Barclay Dwyer	NA	89
	Broad USA	Wholesalers	89
	CIIC Group (USA)	Investments	89
	Dachan Intl.	Investments	89
	Drinker Biddle & Reath	Attorneys	89
	Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.	Insurance	89
	Mutual Intl. Forwarding	NA	89
	Strategic Communications	Telecommunication	89
	Wai Gao Qiao USA	Consultants	89
	Wall Street Planning Assoc.	NA	89
	May Davis Group	Investments	87
	Julien J. Studley	Real Estate	86
	SMW Trading Corp.	Investments	85
	Thermo Electron	NA	85
	Bright China Capital	Investments	84
	David Peterson	Attorneys	84
	KITC	Investments	84
	LG Securities America	Investments	84
	Sanin Godo Bank Ltd.	Banks/Financial	84
	Temenos USA	Wholesalers	84
	Unicorn Capital Advisors	Investments	84
	eMeritus Communications	Telecommunication	83
	General Telecommunications	Telecommunication	83
	Global Crossings Holdings Ltd.	Computer Services	83
	Lava Trading	NA	83
	Taipei Bank	Banks/Financial	83
	NY Metro Transportation Council	Government Schools	82
	Network Plus	Telecommunication	81
	New Continental Enterprises	NA	81
	Agrcor Commodities Corp	Investments	80
	Intrust Investment Realty	Real Estate	80
	Noga Commodities Overseas	Investments	80
	Shizuoka Bank Ltd.	Banks/Financial	80
	The Beast Comm	Computer Services	80
	RLI Insurance Co.	Insurance	80
70s	Baynard & Van Thunen Co.	Insurance	79
	First Liberty Investment Group	Investments	79
	Intl. Office Centers Corporation	Business Services	79
	Nikko Securities	Banks/Financial	79
	Okato Shoji Co	Computer Services	79
	Securant Technologies	Computer Services	79
	Avenir	Computer Services	78
	Baltic Oil Corporation	Corporate	78
	Cedar Capital Mgt Assoc	Banks/Financial	78
	Cheng Cheng Enter. Holding Inc.	Retailers	78
	Geiger & Geiger	Attorneys	78
	Hyundai Securities Co.	Investments	78
	Intl. Trade Center	Public Relations	78
	Korea Local Auth. Found. for Intl	Government Schools	78
	Meridian Ventures Holding	Financial	78
	Pacom Trading & Shipping	NA	78
	Phenk Path	Employment Agency	78
	Traders Access Center	Investments	78
	Hal Roth Agency	Insurance	77
	Jun He Law Office	Attorneys	77
	Martin Progressive	Computer Services	77
	Nuvey Intl. Corp.	Business Services	77
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60s	Airport Access Program	Banks/Financial	63
	Asahi Bank	Banks/Financial	60
50s	Brown & Wood	Attorneys	59
	Brown & Wood	Attorneys	56
	Pace University	Government Schools	55
	World Trade Institute	NA	55
	Brown & Wood	Attorneys	54
	A.I.G Aviation Brokerage	Insurance	53
	Bank of Taiwan	Banks/Financial	53
	China Resource Products USA	NA	53
	Keenan Powers & Andrews	Attorneys	53
	LeCurto & Fink	Investments	53
	Natural Hydrogen Transport Corp	NA	53
	Pacom Trading & Shipping	NA	53
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40s	Daiichi Kangyo Trust Co	Trusts	48
	American TCC Intl. Group	Investments	47
	G. Z. Stephens	Employment Agency	47
	NFA/GGG	NA	47
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	Dahao USA Corp.	Wholesalers	46
	J & X Tans Intl.	NA	46
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	Yong Ren America	NA	46
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	China Construction America	Construction	45
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	Employee Mart	Employment Agency	45
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	SIIA	NA	45
	Streamline Capital	NA	45
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	Xcel Federal Credit Union	Banks/Financial	39
	Tai Fook Securities	Investments	39
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	Port Authority of N.Y. & New Jersey	Government	24
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	G.C. Services	Collection Agency	22
	Gold Sky	Manufacturing	22
	Kaiser Outsons	Manufacturing	22
	Karoon Capital Mgt.	Investments	22
	MLU Investment	Investment	22
	P. Wolfe Consultants	Consultants	22
	Tai Fook Securities	Investments	22
	The SCPIE Companies	NA	22
	Unicorn Capital Advisors	Investments	22
	Avesta Computer Services	Data Processing	21
	Continental Logistics	Business Services	21
	Dongwon Securities	Investments	21
	Dr. Tadasu Tokumaru, M.D.	Doctors	21
	Friends Ivory & Sime	Investments	21
	Friends Villas Fischer Trust	Investments	21
	Infotech	NA	21
	Law Offices of Roman V. Popik	Attorneys	21
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	Tower Computer Service	Retailers	21
	United Seamen's Service AMMLA	Social Services	21
	Empire Health Choice	Insurance	20
10s	Port Authority of N.Y. & New Jersey	Government	19
	Empire Health Choice	Insurance	19
	Bank of America	Banks/Financial	18
	Empire Health Choice	Insurance	17
	ZimAmerican Israeli Shipping Co.	NA	17
	ZimAmerican Israeli Shipping Co.	NA	16
	California Bank & Trust	Banks/Financial	16
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	Instinet	Investments	13
	Porcelli Veini & Co.	NA	11
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	Bank of America	Banks/Financial	10
0s	Bank of America	Banks/Financial	9
	Ampson Group	Organizations	8
	Thai Farmers Bank	Banks/Financial	7
	Gayer, Shyu & Weisel	Accountants	5
	Port Authority of N.Y. & New Jersey	Government	3
	Avis	Car rental	Lobby
	Delta Airlines	Airline	Lobby
	Olympia Airport Express	NA	Lobby
	Ann Taylor Loft	Retail	Concourse
	NY Coffee Station	Food/Retail	Concourse
	Strawberry	Retailers	Concourse
	Alan Anthony	Consultants	NA
	Cedel Bank	Investments	NA
	LG Insurance Co	Insurance	NA
	Northern Trust Intl. Banking Corp	Banks/Financial	NA
	Royal Thai Embassy Office	Government	NA
	Tus USA	Investments	NA
	United Holidays	Travel	NA

AP

Home to 430 firms from 26 countries

NEW YORK—For more than 430 businesses from 26 countries that called the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center home, the task of accounting for thousands of workers is the next step. For some companies, it may take days, if not weeks.

The towers were home to such symbols of Western economic might as the Bank of America, Kemper Insurance, Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley Dean Whitter, Credit Suisse First Boston and Sun Microsystems.

Citigroup said it managed to evacuate its offices on the plaza level, a CNN report said.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had offices on the 67th and 68th floors. Sun Microsystems leased two floors, as did Empire Blue and Blue Cross Shield, an insurance company, according to the report.

Normally 50,000 people work in the Twin Towers, but the first attack came when many workers were not yet in their offices.

Officials estimated that 10,000 to 20,000 people were in the buildings when the first plane crashed.

The towers, part of a complex of seven buildings, boasted more than 70 stores and restaurants.

Investment company Morgan Stanley had 3,500 workers in the company's individual investor businesses in the south tower. In a message posted on the company's website, Chair Philip Purcell said he was saddened and outraged by the attacks.

"In spite of this tragedy, all of our businesses are functioning and will continue to function," he wrote. "We are committed to resuming full operations as exchanges and markets reopen."

Dozens of foreign companies had offices in the towers, including Sinochem American Holdings of China; Japan's Nikko Securities; Germany's CommerzBank AG; Zim-American Israeli Shipping Co. of Israel; and Cantor Fitzgerald of London.

Detlev Rahmsdorf, a spokesperson for Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, said more than 300 people work for them in the Trade Center, in offices in the lower floors.

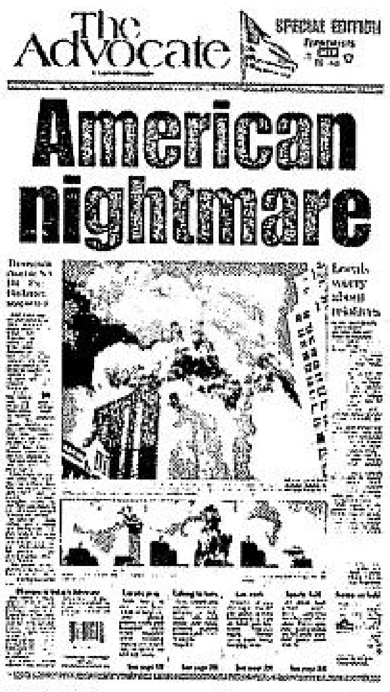
Ted Meyer, another Deutsche Bank spokesperson, said the company is "working with the authorities to verify the safety of our employees." He said the company's financial operations were being transferred to backup facilities.

German insurance giant Allianz had about 300 people working in the building, though they maintain they don't know which floor.

"They were all evacuated and they're all well," said spokesperson Hubertus Kuelps, who refused to elaborate further.

London-based Cantor Fitzgerald International, as well as eSpeed International, which was spun off by Cantor, said they were still taking stock of the tragedy. ESpeed is an electronic trading service with more than 650 clients worldwide. Both companies had operations on the 101st and 103rd to 105th floors, and employed 1,000 workers there.

In San Francisco, Henrik Slipsager of ABM Industries Inc., said his company employed more than 800 engineers, janitors and lighting technicians at the World Trade Center. *Associated Press*

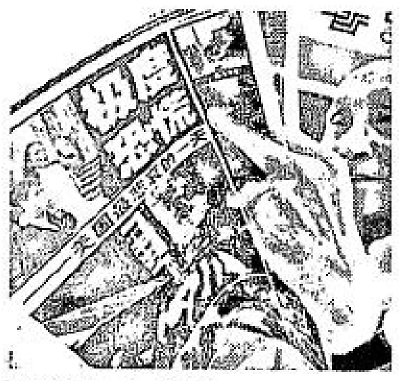


The Advocate

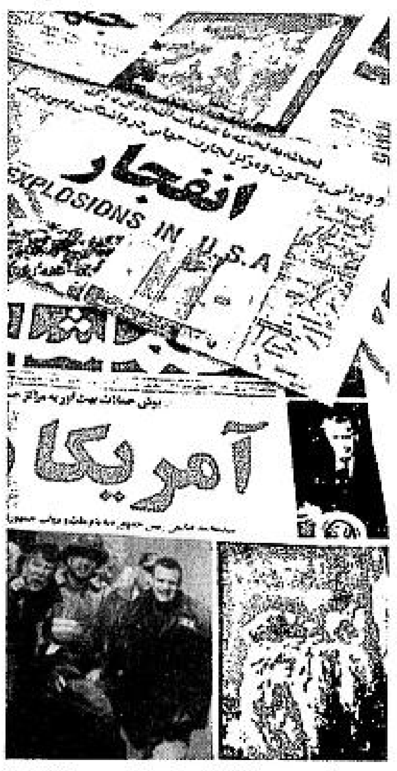
SPECIAL EDITION

American nightmare

HOW German media covered tragedy. AP



PAGE I of a Beijing paper. AP

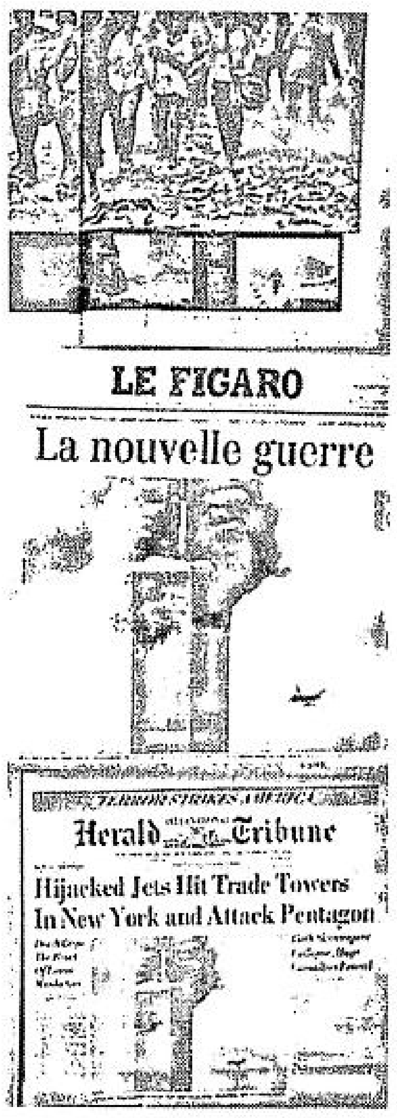


انفجار

EXPLOSIONS IN U.S.A

آمریکا

"US turned into hell," says Iran daily. AFP



LE FIGARO

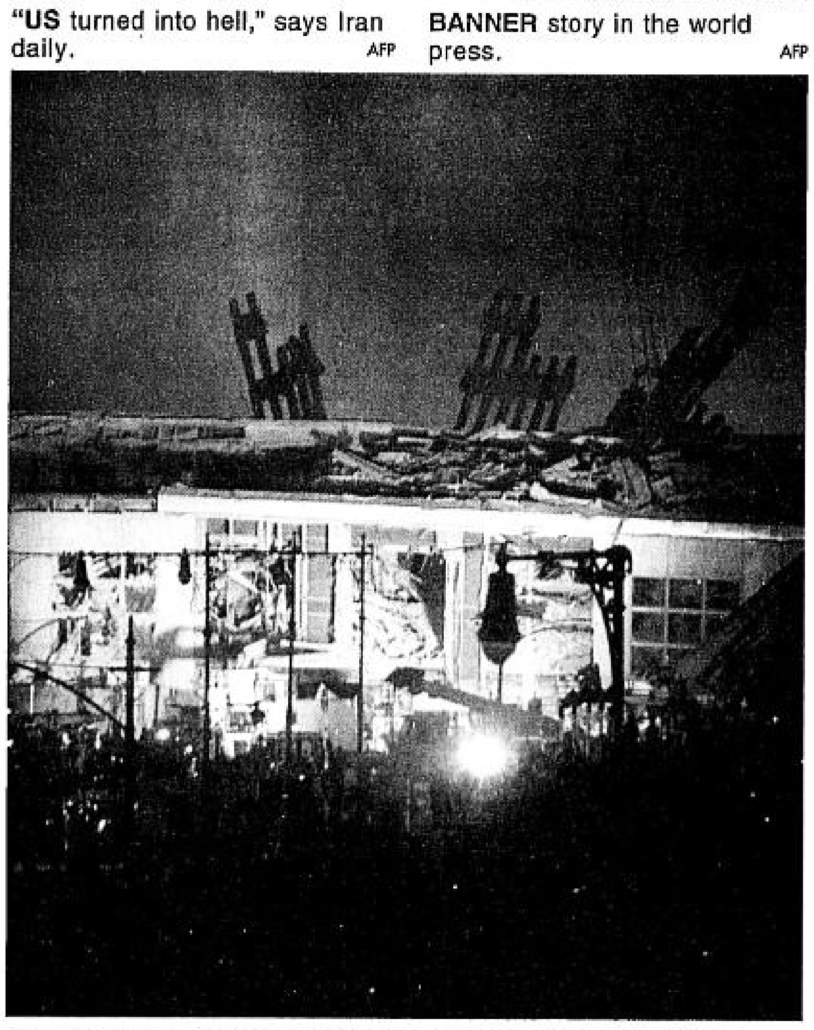
La nouvelle guerre

TERROR STRIKES AMERICA

Herald Tribune

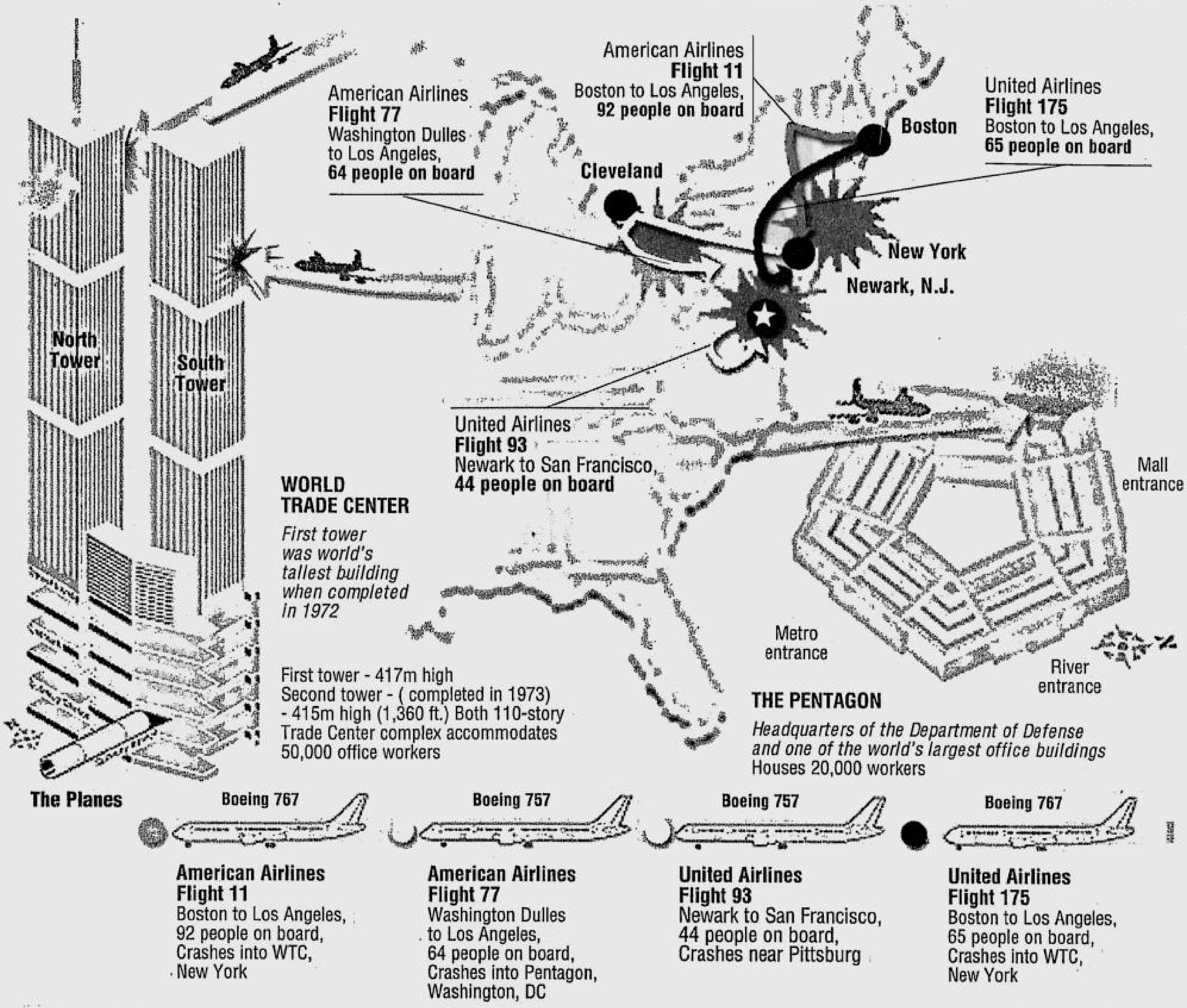
Hijacked Jets Hit Trade Towers In New York and Attack Pentagon

BANNER story in the world press. AFP



SMOKE clears; behold the remains of the iconic World Trade Center. AFP

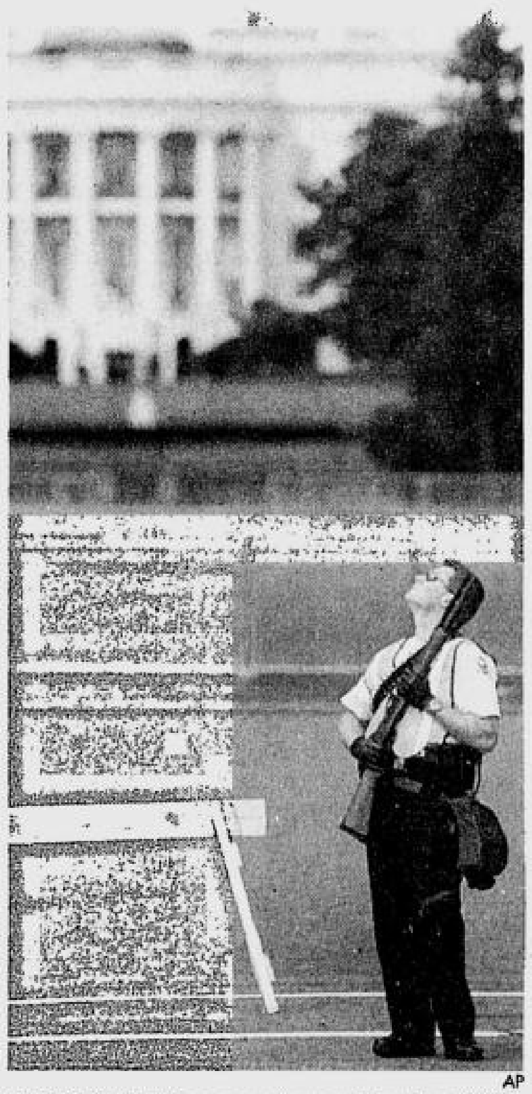
How terrorists attacked US landmarks with hijacked passenger planes



SOURCE: REUTERS/AP

ERNIE SAMBO/INQGRAPHIC

THERE goes the World Trade Center, after its second tower is swallowed up by fire. REUTERS



AP

SECRET Service agent guarding the White House searches the sky for unfriendly intruders.

Terrorist attacks worry RP Senate

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE TERRORIST attacks halfway around the world have sent shivers down the Senate's spine.

Senators yesterday warned of possible adverse consequences of Tuesday's strikes on America to the Philippines' security and economy.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former military chief, recalled that 14 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf arrived in Manila from Afghanistan on Aug. 10, presumably after undergoing commando training there.

Biazon referred to a report submitted by Immigration Officer Crescencio Ablan of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport saying the 14 are believed to be "part of the 50 Filipinos who went to Afghanistan (through Pakistan) to undergo commando training."

Biazon said he feels that the government should take a second look at the report after US officials declared Afghan-based international terrorist Osama bin Laden their prime suspect. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel noted that the Abu Sayyaf looks up to Bin Laden as a benefactor.

Biazon added that the 50 suspected Abu Sayyaf members who trained in Afghanistan allegedly received orders "to carry out the bombing of several embassies and vital installations in Metro Manila."

Sen. Loren Legarda said the military "has long been aware of the connection between Muslim separatists and Bin Laden."

However, she cautioned against "reacting with hatred against religious groups, particularly the Muslim communities, as the perpetrators of the attacks have not yet been (officially) named."

World offers condolences to US

LONDON—Governments around the world offered condolences and support to an America that looked more vulnerable than ever Tuesday as people on every continent watched on their TV screens the astonishing images of terror in the United States.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat offered his sympathy to Americans, saying the string of devastating attacks horrified him. "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable," he said.

Leaders around the world—including most in the Middle East—offered streams of condolences.

In a statement to his official news agency, Jana, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi called the attacks "horrifying" and he urged international Muslim aid groups to offer assistance to the United States "regardless of political considerations or differences between America and the peoples of the world."

Ordinary citizens offered condolences at American embassies around the world—Norwegians left bouquets of flowers in a park near the embassy in Oslo, Russians placed flowers near the Moscow mission, and in Budapest, there were dozens of candles.

Nato allies

America's Nato allies declared that the United States could count on their support in an intensified war against terrorism—a battle that "all civilized nations must win."

"Our deepest sympathy lies with the victims, their families and all Americans," the alliance's governing North Atlantic Council said following an emergency meeting.

"The Nato nations unanimously condemn these barbaric acts committed against a Nato member state," the council said.

In New York, the UN Security Council unanimously condemned the attacks and urged all nations to work together to bring the perpetrators to justice and prevent future terrorism.

Phone lines were jammed, and thousands of people overseas got only busy signals when they tried to call the United States.

"It is impossible to fully comprehend the evil that would have conjured up such a cowardly and depraved assault," said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called the attacks "terrible tragedies."

"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who called an emergency Cabinet meeting.

"It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life," Blair said.

Queen Elizabeth II said she was watching developments in "growing disbelief and total shock."

Unspeakable

Pope John Paul II, in what is believed to be an unprecedented gesture, opened his weekly audience by making a strong and lengthy condemnation of the "unspeakable horror."

The Pope condemned the attacks as "a dark day in the history of humanity" and said Americans should have the courage to persevere because "evil will not have the last word."

While Iraqi TV appeared to salute the attacks, Modhafar Bashir, a 35-year-old poet who watched the news in a Baghdad coffeeshop, said he condemned such violence.

"The problem is that America has created so many enemies inside and abroad," Bashir said.

China said it was "horrified" and Chinese President Jiang Zemin expressed "grave concern for the safety of Chinese in the United States."

"This outrageous and vicious act of violence against the United States is unforgivable," said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

President Jacques Chirac of France called the attacks "monstrous."

European Union Commission President Romano Prodi said "Europeans stand together with the United States."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said "there can be no doubt that these attacks are deliberate acts of terrorism, carefully planned and coordinated. . . . I condemn them utterly."

Unimaginable

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called the attacks "horrible and unimaginable." In Germany, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder described them as "a declaration of war."

"This day has changed the world. A terrible event, the scale of which we cannot yet appreciate," German President Johannes Rau told an audience in Helsinki.

The leaders of Northern Ireland's joint Protestant-Catholic government, Reg Empey and Seamus Mallon, also offered condolences.

"As a society that has suffered from the effects of terrorism for over 30 years, we have some recognition and understanding of the hurt being felt by the American people," they wrote.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad expressed sadness, but urged the US government not to seek revenge.

"Retaliation will lead to the deaths of many people and will be followed by more counter-strikes," he was quoted as saying.

Further condolences and condemnations of the violence came from officials in Italy, Iran, Romania, Poland, Venezuela, Brazil, Finland, Mexico, Thailand, Yugoslavia, the Congo, the Philippines, Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa, Colombia, Singapore, South Korea, Albania, Denmark and Jordan, among many other countries.

Safe havens

Stock markets stabilized and bonds fell in Europe after a global rout as investors fumbled for direction in the wake of the attacks which many feared would prompt a global recession.

Safe haven bonds and gold lost ground, returning some of the massive gains made Tuesday after the attack on a key nerve center of global finance. Oil, which had also made major gains on fears of worsening conflict in the Middle East, was steady.

The dollar was stable after large losses against major currencies Tuesday.

Europe's bourses fell sharply then steadied Wednesday, as players still reeling from the scenes of devastation tried to work out the implications for economic and political life.

Dealers predicted a day of huge volatility while benchmark indices yo-yoed around end-1998 levels after first approaching lows last seen during the Russian devaluation crisis in the autumn of that year.

"Not just the United States but the world economy has been given a direct hit to the gut and we're going to reel from that for a little bit," said Robert Lees, secretary general of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

The main US markets were closed after the attacks that occurred just as the trading day was about to begin.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill cut short his trip to Japan and headed back to the United States to help settle markets in the aftermath of the attacks.

Scrambled for news

In the US Caribbean territory of Puerto Rico, people scrambled for news of relatives and friends in New York, where an estimated 2 million Puerto Ricans live.

Groups gathered on the corners of cobble-stoned streets in San Juan, clinging to strangers in search of more details.

"*Dios mio,* have mercy!" exclaimed a whited-haired man, making the sign of the cross as he watched the second tower explode on TV.

Broadcasters around the world broke into programming to show images of the disasters.

"This portends the end of the world," said Ekima Ibass, a civil servant in Congo's capital, Kinshasa. "It could be the beginning of a new world war," Ibass added.

Reports from AP and Reuters

23,000 hold office at the Pentagon

WHAT is the Pentagon, and why do terrorists want it destroyed?

It is the headquarters of the US Department of Defense. One of the world's largest office buildings, it is twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and has three times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York. The National Capitol could fit into any one of the five wedge-shaped sections.

There are very few people throughout the United States who do not have some knowledge of the Pentagon. Many have followed news stories emanating from the defense establishment housed in this building.

The Pentagon is virtually a city in itself. Approximately 23,000 employees, both military and civilian, contribute to the planning and execution of the defense of our country. These people arrive daily from Washington, D.C. and its suburbs over approximately 30 miles of access highways, including express bus lanes and one of the newest subway systems in our country.

They ride past 200 acres of lawn to park approximately 8,770 cars in 16 parking lots; climb 131 stairways or ride 19 escalators to reach offices that occupy 3,705,793 square feet.

While in the building, they tell time by 4,200 clocks, drink from 691 water fountains, utilize 284 rest rooms, consume 4,500 cups of coffee, 1,700 pints of milk and 6,800 soft drinks prepared or served by a restaurant staff of 230 persons and dispensed in one dining room, two cafeterias, six snack bars, and an outdoor snack bar.

The restaurant service is a privately run civilian operation under contract to the Pentagon.

Over 200,000 telephone calls are made daily through phones connected by 100,000 miles of telephone cable. The Defense Post Office handles about 1,200,000 pieces of mail monthly. Various libraries support our personnel in research and completion of their work. The Army Library alone provides 300,000 publications and 1,700 periodicals in various languages.

Stripped of its occupants, furniture and various decorations, the building alone is an extraordinary structure. Built during the early years of World War II, it is still thought of as one of the most efficient office buildings in the world. Despite 17.5 miles of corridors it takes only seven minutes to walk between any two points in the building.

The original site was nothing more than wasteland, swamps and dumps. 5.5 million cubic yards of earth, and 41,492 concrete piles contributed to the foundation of the building.

Additionally, 680,000 tons of sand and gravel, dredged from the nearby Potomac River, were processed into 435,000 cubic yards of concrete and molded into the Pentagon form.

The building was built in the remarkably short time of 16 months and completed on Jan. 15, 1943 at an approximate cost of $83 million. It consolidated 17 buildings of the War Department and returned its investment within seven years. ***Source: Pentagon website***

Terror attacks may trigger world recession

WASHINGTON—The terror attacks in the US business and government capitals may push the teetering economy into recession, analysts said.

The Federal Reserve said it stood ready to pump extra money into the economy if needed to try to avert such a development.

The Fed's promise to supply additional money to the banking system was similar to a pledge it issued on the morning after the October 1987 stock market crash. That action, only two months into Alan Greenspan's tenure as chair, was credited with keeping the economy out of recession.

Private analysts, however, said the Fed's magic of lower interest rates and ample supplies of cash may not be enough to overcome Tuesday's series of attacks. They came as the economy already was struggling and consumer confidence was faltering.

"The economy has been on a high-wire act straddling between a recession and anemic growth. Now the terrorists have cut the wire underneath our feet," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "The United States and the rest of the world are likely to experience a full-blown recession now."

The concern among economists is that the attacks will cause consumers to cut back further on their spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Even before the attacks, signs of trouble were evident as Americans grew more worried about their jobs with each fresh round of layoff announcements.

The government had reported last Friday that the unemployment rate shot up to 4.9 percent in August as job losses in manufacturing climbed above 1 million.

The overall economy grew by just 0.2 percent in the April-June quarter, the poorest showing in eight years. Before the terrorist attacks, many analysts had been forecasting a rebound to around 1.5-percent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) for the current quarter, helped by seven interest rate cuts from the Fed and nearly $40 billion in tax rebate money being mailed to Americans.

Hurt consumer confidence

Economists said the terror attacks, in addition to hurting consumer confidence, could disrupt the economy in a variety of ways, including severely curtailing air travel, which especially would harm areas that depend on tourism.

"There is no economic good that comes out of this. It is just a question of how bad will it be," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "It is now likely we will get a negative GDP number for the third quarter, given all of the economic disruptions that this is creating with a shutdown of the transportation system and the financial markets."

Big segments of the economy are likely to be frozen for a few days or a week. Among those facing the largest losses are Wall Street firms, because the financial markets are closed.

Worst hit was Morgan Stanley, which occupied 50 of one of the tower's 110 floors.

The Airline industry faces tens of millions of dollars in refunds to passengers unable to travel while aircraft were grounded.

"There is going to be a lot of damage to business confidence, there's certainly going to be less people flying, and people will be more frugal with spending," said Craig James, Commonwealth Bank Securities chief economist in Sydney.

Oil, gold prices up

The dollar fell as money flooded into gold and Treasury bonds, traditional havens amid uncertainty. Oil prices surged.

Stock prices in Asia plummeted Wednesday, while European markets opened generally higher.

In Japan, Asia's largest market, the benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average plunged beneath the key 10,000-point mark for the first time in 17 years as traders dumped shares. The Nikkei closed down 682.85 points, or 6.63 percent, at 9,610.10.

European markets, which sank late Tuesday after the attack, opened cautiously higher. In Frankfurt, the Xetra DAX index of German blue chips rose by 2.3 percent to 4,369.66 points.

"Independently of how the United States replies to the terror attacks, political events generally count for only a limited time on the market," said Ulrich Ramm, chief economist at Germany's Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

But gloom dominated in Asia, where markets have already taken a beating from the global economic slowdown.

Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng index plunged as much as 12 percent from Tuesday's close to its lowest level in two and a half years.

"What a disaster. I've lost 10 percent already, but I'm going to hold onto my shares. I think the drop is only short-term," Kevin Chiu, a solicitor's clerk, said as he stood outside a securities firm.

President George W. Bush and other administration officials sought to bolster confidence.

"Our financial institutions remain strong and the American economy will be open for business as well" on Wednesday, Bush said in a televised address to the nation.

The President's Working Group on Financial Markets said officials had "every confidence" stock trading would resume "as soon as it is both appropriate and practical." The group of Treasury and Federal Reserve officials, along with market regulators, coordinates government responses during market crises.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, in Tokyo on Tuesday on the last stop of a weeklong Asian tour, said in a statement that "our nation's financial markets are strong and resilient."

The Fed's promise to supply extra money to the banking system is an attempt to assure depositors that no bank will get caught without adequate resources to meet its normal operating needs.

Economist Zandi predicted the Fed would follow that with further cuts in interest rates.

The Fed already had reduced its key benchmark rate, the federal funds rate, seven times so far this year, the last cut occurring at its Aug. 21 meeting.

The Fed next meets on Oct. 2 although some analysts said the central bank may feel a need to deliver a positive jolt to markets with an inter-meeting rate cut, something it has already done twice this year.

In the past, cataclysmic events often affected the economy's direction. The Persian Gulf crisis, for instance, with its war jitters and higher oil prices, helped to bring on the 1990-1991 recession, while Pearl Harbor forged a national consensus to spend huge amounts of money to defeat Germany—and the economy boomed, Louis Uchitelle wrote in the New Times.

"This cataclysm, however, is different: No one yet knows who the enemy is or what the group, or groups, may do next," Uchitelle said. ***Reports from AP, BBC News and CNN***

Attacks on America paralyze international travel

LONDON—Canceled and diverted flights choked airports around the world Wednesday after US air space was closed in the wake of the terror attacks on New York and Washington.

The shutdown, ordered Tuesday by the US Federal Aviation Administration, forced the cancellation of countless flights, leaving passengers stranded or diverted to airports hundreds of kilometers from their intended destinations.

With authorities fearing that more hijackings and terrorist attacks would follow Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, security was tightened at airports worldwide.

"We have a very, very high level of security to begin with anyway, but we have heightened security," said Chris Donnolley, a spokesperson for Hong Kong's airport authority.

"Today's events will cast a 20-year shadow over international civil aviation," said Phil Butterworth-Hayes, civil aviation editor of the Jane's publishing group in Britain.

"It will be a bigger shadow than the one cast by the Lockerbie crash, and the restrictions on civil aviation will be immense," he said, referring to the Pam Am jumbo jet bombing that killed 270 people in 1988.

Hong Kong's international airport, one of Asia's busiest hubs, canceled all US-bound flights Wednesday. The airport authority's website showed that at least six United flights, one Continental flight and two Air Canada flights were canceled.

China and Taiwan also canceled all commercial flights to the United States.

The runway of Mexico City's international airport was clogged late Tuesday as it received about 40 diverted flights, mainly from South America bound for Houston, Miami and Los Angeles.

More than 100 international flights were rerouted to Canada on Tuesday, said FAA spokesperson Laura Brown. Others went to Bermuda.

"Until further notice, all air movements from Canadian airports are grounded, except for those flights required for urgent humanitarian purposes, and diversions by the FAA of international aircraft previously destined for the United States," Canadian Transport Minister David Collenette announced.

Canadian airports accepting unscheduled flights were those in Mirabel, Quebec; the Canadian military base at Goose Bay in Labrador; St. John's, Newfoundland; Moncton, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Toronto; Vancouver, British Columbia; and even Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory.

Logistical nightmare

In the United States, pilots and air traffic controllers managed the logistical nightmare of safely grounding hundreds of planes in US skies.

Dozens of airplanes were diverted to Kansas airports. One Kansas county declared a state of emergency as a small Garden City airport struggled to provide transportation, food and lodging for 180 stranded passengers on three grounded commercial planes.

"We had to pull some tricks out of our hats to get everybody accommodated," said Andrew W. Perry, director of aviation at Garden City Regional Airport.

About an hour after Capt. Jay Meinen's Boeing 737 took off from Cleveland, an air traffic controller told him, "Divert the plane. You are not flying to Los Angeles anymore. Please prepare to land at Indianapolis. This is a national emergency."

The plane descended minutes later at Indianapolis International Airport.

Suspicious baggage

In the Cayman Islands, the Owen Roberts Airport was evacuated after suspicious baggage was left beside the American Airlines check-in desk.

The airport was reopened after authorities determined that the bag contained only a computer and a scanner.

In South Korea, television footage showed helmeted security forces on patrol at the Incheon international airport. At London's Heathrow airport, armed police patrolled airline desks belonging to American and United Airlines.

As frantic rescue efforts continued around New York City's demolished World Trade Center and Washington's crippled Pentagon, Israel closed its air space to foreign carriers for at least 24 hours.

Britain and Belgium banned commercial flights over their capitals of London and Brussels.

"No flights will take off from the United Kingdom for which we cannot apply the highest standards of security for aircrew and passengers," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

"Private flights have been stopped except where specifically authorized. Flight paths into London have been changed so there will be no civil flights over central London," he said.

Commercial airlines were unlikely to restart trans-Atlantic flights until Wednesday afternoon, according to the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (or Eurocontrol).

"My guess is that it will take 24 hours," said Gerard Stadler, a director of Eurocontrol, which is based in Brussels and has 30 European member-states.

Stadler would not say how many aircraft were turned around on Tuesday afternoon. But there are about 500 westbound Atlantic crossings per day, with each flight carrying about 400 passengers, he noted.

Out of nine flights diverted to Bermuda, three had returned to Europe, airport officials in the British Atlantic territory said.

Hundreds of passengers were being accommodated at nearby hotels.

Recalled flights

A spokesperson for Japan's Narita international airport said 13 flights bound for the United States from Tokyo were ordered to turn back on Tuesday.

Italian airport authorities canceled flights to the Middle East and recalled flights to the United States in the wake of the attacks.

The national carrier, Alitalia, said it was canceling Wednesday's flights from Milan's Malpensa airport to the United States, Canada and the Middle East, the Ansa news agency said.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines NV said Tuesday it had canceled flights to and from the United States, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

It said about 20 flights in all had been canceled, stranding 5,000 people at Schiphol international airport outside Amsterdam.

Of the number, 3,500 are not Dutch and would be put up in hotels, the airline said.

A Swissair flight carrying Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, bound from Zurich to New York for United Nations talks on the reunification of Cyprus, turned back over the Atlantic Ocean after being denied permission to land, Cypriot radio reported.

The flight returned to Europe, according to the report, which did not specify an airport.

British Airways, Alitalia, Sabena and KLM also canceled flights scheduled to Beirut Tuesday. ***AP***

US-bound passengers jam Canadian airports

MIRABEL, Quebec—Passengers traveling to the United States piled up by the thousands in Canadian airports after US authorities halted all air traffic there.

Rasmi Simhan and her family were flying from Bombay, India, headed for Washington, D.C. when the pilot of their Northwest Airlines flight told passengers that an "emergency" in the United States had halted all commercial flights.

"All we were told is that there was some sort of emergency and that there were no flights in or out of the United States," Simhan, 20, said after landing Tuesday at the Mirabel charter and cargo airport outside Montreal.

The news brought "an odd calm" in the cabin. she said.

Simhan's flight was one of more than 100 bound for the United States that instead headed to Canada.

She said buses arranged by airport officials at Mirabel took them to Dorval, the city's main terminal for commercial flights, and on to hotels or other places to stay for the night.

On Tuesday night, Montreal officials made a public plea for help in finding lodging for about 1,000 people expected on flights still coming in to Mirabel or Dorval.

The Canadian military was put on alert and major government and tourist sites were closed, including Parliament Hill in the capital, Ottawa, and the tall CN Tower in Toronto.

The US Embassy was closed and put under increased security.

Some border posts temporarily closed, but reports that the entire frontier would be sealed proved untrue.

Erin Wayne and her parents were flying back from Scotland to New York on Tuesday when the flight was diverted to Dorval because of what the pilot called "a tragedy."

The family took a taxi to the border and walked across, luggage in hand, to search for a ride to Syracuse, New York. ***AP***

Calls from the skies leave clues

(From page A1)

Solicitor General Theodore Olson, twice called her husband and described details of the hijacking, including that the attackers used knifelike instruments, law enforcement officials said. They gave no other details.

"She called from the plane while it was being hijacked. I wish it wasn't so but it is," her husband said. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 that left Dulles International Airport in Washington and was forced to crash into the Pentagon.

Barbara Olson, 45, a former congressional investigator and aide to Senate Minority Whip Don Nickles, later became a TV commentator and wrote a book critical of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A brief morning call was a slight bit of solace for a Connecticut mother, whose adult son called minutes before his jet struck in New York City. Peter Hanson was traveling with his wife and 2-year-old daughter.

"All I want to say is they went down together," said Hanson's mother, Eunice. "They went down together. They stayed together in death. That's the only consolation I have."

Knives

The callers each described similar circumstances involving knife-wielding hijackers, some with box cutters.

A businessman, his wife and young child aboard a United flight that left Boston and crashed into the World Trade Center twice called his father in Connecticut as his plane was being hijacked, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victim's father told the FBI his son made two calls and both times the phone stewardess had been stabbed. In the second call, the son said his plane was going down.

The man was identified as Peter Hanson. A minister confirmed the cell phone call to his father, Lee Hanson.

"He called to his parents' home, and so in that way they were so together in that moment," the Rev. Bonnie Bardot said.

Stabbings

And a flight attendant aboard the second jetliner that struck the World Trade Center managed to call an emergency number from the back of the airplane, an American Airlines source said.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the flight attendant reported her fellow attendants had been stabbed, the cabin had been taken over, and they were going down in New York.

Attorney General John Ashcroft confirmed the American Airlines Flight 11 that left Boston for Los Angeles "was hijacked by suspects armed with knives." He briefed about 250 members of Congress late Tuesday on the latest developments.

The stories of these cell phone callers matched those of a call apparently made aboard a plane that crashed in rural Pennsylvania around the same time.

An emergency dispatcher received a cell phone call saying he was a passenger locked in a bathroom aboard United Flight 93, his plane was being hijacked and it was going down. The dispatcher heard an explosion and the cell phone call ended, officials said.

'Hijackers flew'

The nearly simultaneous assaults on the World Trade Center and Pentagon using commercial airliners point to a meticulously planned strike by attackers who likely deployed their own pilots, terrorism and aviation experts said.

"No pilot, even with a gun to his head, is going to fly into the World towers," said Gene Poteat, president of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

The terrorists "flew the planes themselves," he speculated.

Aviation experts also said they could not fathom a scenario in which the crew of the commercial aircraft

"I'd take it to the ground before I went into a building—even with a gun to your head. You know you're going to die any way," said Robert Hiemstra, a retired Continental Airlines pilot from Bloomington, Indiana, who is senior vice president of the Retired Airline Pilots Association.

Tuesday's attacks did not appear to require mastery of science.

Instead, analysts were impressed by the meticulous planning.

While operating the planes required substantial know-how, such attacks likely relied more on overall orchestration, said Tim Brown, senior analyst with Global Security.org in Washington, D.C., which researches proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Not that hard

"This goes to prove the whole argument that you don't need weapons of mass destruction, all you need is an airliner loaded with jet fuel," said Brown.

"The actual skills of the individual operators aren't particularly great, but the imagination to recognize the vulnerability and exploit it successfully in an orchestrated manner," he added.

"I do find it amazing that it was this sophisticated and coordinated an attack," said attorney Victoria Toensing, who started the Justice Department's terrorism section as a deputy attorney general during the administration of US President Ronald Reagan.

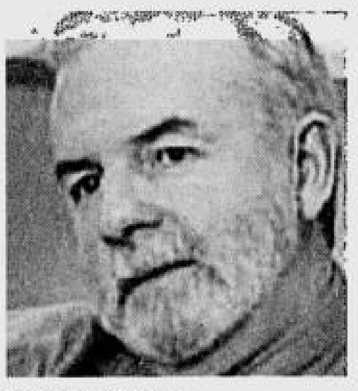
Many hijackings fail before planes ever get off the ground, and so the takeover of multiple planes demonstrates considerable planning and expertise, she said.

Hiemstra and other experts said that a terrorist wouldn't necessarily need formal training to fly a commercial jet.

"In terms of basic aircraft control, being able to fly it into a building, it requires some degree of skill certainly, but probably not more than what the average person on the street would be able to acquire," said Dave Esser, a professor and former flight instructor in Florida.

Esser said even the unschooled can acquire rudimentary flight skills with off-the-shelf flight simulator software. And even though big jets have complex instruments they steer more or less like a car he

BARBARA OLSON



DAVID ANGELL

Short, painful list of victims starts growing

THE LIST, so far, is short and painful, and sure to grow much longer: a pilot who treasured his faith, a TV producer, a conservative commentator whose husband is in the Bush administration, a retired law enforcement officer starting a new career as flight attendant.

There were 266 aboard the four planes hijacked and used to attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

About 600 people attended a memorial service in Greenland, New Hampshire, for Tom McGuinness, co-pilot of the American Airlines flight, which crashed into the north tower of World Trade Center.

"He was a faith-based man," said neighbor Chris Murphy, a member of McGuinness' church. "As my son gets older, if someone were to tell him he's a lot like Tom, I'd consider that a proud statement."

In Alamogordo, New Mexico, local law enforcement remembered colleague Al Marchand, who retired in March and began a new career as a United flight attendant.

"He was very good to people," said Capt. Mike Mirabal at the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety. "He was known to help people out. He had a lot of friends he left behind here."

Others who perished included Barbara Olson, 45, a conservative commentator and the wife of US Solicitor General Theodore Olson; David Angell, 54, a producer of the NBC TV show "Frasier"; and actress and photographer Berry Berenson, 53, the widow of actor Anthony Perkins and sister of actress Marisa Berenson.

Also killed were Daniel C. Lewin, 31, co-founder of Akamai Technologies, a company that offers technology to speed the delivery of Internet information, and two officials with the Los Angeles Kings hockey team—Garnet "Ace" Bailey, 53, director of pro scouting, and Mark Bavis, an amateur scout. ***AP***

‘Final numbers will be more than we can bear’

(From page A1)

streets. Rescue workers were armed with pickaxes and shovels.

But into the night, ferries carted loads of bodies across the Hudson River, according to Stan Eason, a Jersey City spokesperson. Three cab companies ripped out seats from vans to help carry the dead to the Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Television reports Wednesday relayed the good news that six survivors had been found. But it was not clear if the figure included two municipal employees found late Tuesday.

Establishing the death toll could take weeks, and officials did not provide estimates of the number of dead transported.

But the four airliners alone—two hijacked jets that crashed into the World Trade Center, one that slammed into the Pentagon, another that crashed outside Pittsburgh—had 266 people aboard, and there were no known survivors. At the Pentagon, about 100 people were believed dead.

In addition, a union official said he feared that half of the 400 firefighters who first reached the scene had died in rescue efforts at the trade center, where 50,000 people worked. And dozens of police officers were believed missing.

According to Emergency Medical Service worker Louis Garcia, initial reports indicated that bodies were buried beneath the two feet of soot on streets around the trade center.

"A lot of the vehicles are running over bodies because they are all over the place," he said.

National Guard member Angelo Otchy of Maplewood, New Jersey, said he must have come across "body parts by the thousands."

"I came across a lady, she didn't remember her name. Her face was covered in blood," he said.

The crash of the two planes by knife-wielding hijackers in the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States was witnessed on television sets across the world. "Today, our nation saw evil," US President George W. Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were "suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

"We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor," said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the US Atlantic Fleet, referring to the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that claimed the lives of 2,390 Americans, most of them servicemen.

Lending a hand

Barbara Kalvig hurried with a car full of colleagues from the New York Veterinarians Hospital to lend a hand at a triage center opened up by the city's Board of Health.

"We closed the hospital and brought a bunch of doctors and nurses," Kalvig said. "We just drove as far as we could."

Hundreds of volunteers with medical, military or nursing experience formed ad hoc crews to accept blood donations and take care of minor injuries as truckloads of medical supplies poured in.

Nearby, a construction crew hauled plywood to the emergency teams to be used as makeshift stretchers for rescue crews.

Craig Senzon, 29, a neurologist volunteering at the triage center, said the experience was horrific.

"We felt a heaviness inside us that none of us had ever felt before," Senzon said.

A few blocks away from the World Trade Center, about 120 doctors and people with medical training traveled in a convoy of pickup trucks, ambulances, a dump truck and cars toward the wreckage.

Among them was Andrew Gray, a 26-year-old New Yorker with rescue worker experience. He had been told that he would be helping burn victims.

Gray, like many others, simply left his apartment after the blasts, looking to see how he could help.

"I left my apartment with no idea what I was going to do," he said. "It's shocking to think that human life is so cheap to these people."

As dawn broke Wednesday over Washington, the Pentagon, symbol and command center for US military force, continued to burn.

Businesses on Columbia Pike remained open throughout the day and evening.

"We will remain open until 10 p.m., an hour later than usual," said cashier Chris Erbey of the deli Atilla. "We know there are people working at the Pentagon late tonight. We know most of them. Maybe there'd be the firemen, too. They'd be hungry."

Erbey added: "This afternoon, we gave out sandwiches and pizzas to our friends in the military. Some of them have been our customers for the last 20 years. We figured, that's how we'd show them we're one with them."

Falling down

Witnesses said the dead and the doomed plummeted from the twin towers, among them a man and a woman holding hands.

"All this stuff started falling and all this smoke was coming through. People were screaming, falling and jumping out of the windows," said Jennifer Brickhouse, 34, from Union, New Jersey.

But the chaos was just beginning. Workers stumbled down scores of flights, their clothing torn and their lungs filled with smoke and dust.

Donald Burns, 34, was being evacuated from the 82nd floor when he saw four people in the stairwell.

"I tried to help them but they didn't want anyone to touch them. The fire had melted their skin. Their clothes were tattered," he said.

Worse was to come. At 9:50 (1350 GMT), one tower collapsed, sending debris and dust cascading to the ground. At 10:30 (1430 GMT), the other tower crumbled.

Glass doors shattered, police and firefighters ushered people into subway stations and buildings. The air was black, from the pavement to the sky. The dust and ash were inches deep along the streets.

Bridges and tunnels were closed to all but pedestrians. Subways were shut down for much of the day; many commuter trains were not running.

Many of the survivors were covered in gray ash. Strangers patted each other on the back as they passed on city streets. Some were numb with shock. Others wept hysterically.

Losing count

Firefighter Rudy Weindler spent nearly 12 hours trying to find survivors. He found only four—a pregnant woman sitting on a curb and three others in the rubble of a building in the trade center complex.

"I lost count of all the dead people I saw. It is absolutely worse than you could ever imagine," Weindler said.

He said there were so many other buildings that were "partially destroyed and near collapse," and "a lot of fires still burning."

When asked how many of his comrades he thought had fallen, he broke into tears and could not speak.

Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen estimated that more than 300 firefighters were missing. "Many of them are gone," he said.

Three top fire department officials were among those who died. One of them, Ray Downey, chief of special operations command, led a team of New York firefighters to Oklahoma City in 1995 after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Giuliani said police had received cellphone calls from people trapped in the debris.

"There are people that are still alive," he said. "We'll be trying to recover as many people as possible and trying to clean up the horrible mess made by this."

A police source said that some people trapped in the rubble managed to call authorities or family members, and that some trapped police officers made radio contact.

In one of the calls, which took place in the afternoon, a businessman phoned his family to say he was trapped with policemen, whom he named, the source said.

Mid-afternoon Tuesday, Giuliani said 1,500 "walking wounded" had been shipped to Liberty State Park in New Jersey by ferry and tugboat, and 750 others were taken to New York City hospitals. Of the number, 150 were in critical condition.

Well into the night, a steady stream of boats continued to arrive at the park.

"Every 10 minutes another boat with 100 to 150 people in it pulls up," said New Jersey Mayor Glenn Cunningham. "I have a feeling this is going to go on for several days."

Last rites

New York's Cardinal Edward Egan covered his clerical robes with green surgical garb and administered last rites to a dozen people at St. Vincent's Hospital.

"For all of us, this has been a terrible day," Egan said. "I wish this day had never happened."

Parag Papki went to five hospitals looking for his brother, Ganesh Ladkat, who worked on the 104th floor of the trade center. He was sent to a center set up to account for the missing.

"They asked me what was he wearing, any body marks—stuff like that," Papki said after filling out a form. "Since afternoon, I am searching."

Normally 50,000 people work in the twin towers, but the first attack came when many workers were not yet in their offices.

Officials estimated that 10,000 to 20,000 people were in the buildings when the first plane crashed. Many fled, rushing down dozens of flights of stairs before the second jet hit and the towers collapsed. *Reports from AP, Jennie L. Ilustre*

Bin Laden: Islamic warrior, US hater, bomber

KABUL, Afghanistan—It all began in 1990, when the United States sent its troops to Saudi Arabia. They had come to defend the Persian Gulf oil powerhouse against an expansionist Iraq, but ended up with a local warrior who vowed to destroy them.

He was Osama bin Laden.

To fully understand how Bin Laden became a world-famous suspected terrorism mastermind and an America hater, it is necessary to see how he became an Islamic holy warrior.

Bin Laden first achieved prominence in Afghanistan during an insurgency against the invading Soviet Union. It was led by Afghan Islamic rebels, heavily bankrolled by the United States.

He is said to have received considerable money during the 10-year Afghan battle from the US Central Intelligence Agency, which covertly helped finance the Islamic insurrection against the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

In 1989, when the fighting ended with Moscow's retreat, Bin Laden returned home to Saudi Arabia. There, he began a confrontation with the Saudi monarchy over its decision to invite American troops into Saudi Arabia, the site of two of Islam's holiest places, Mecca and Medina.

In 1990, the United States deployed its troops to Saudi Arabia in response to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The result was the Gulf War.

Bin Laden rallied disgruntled Saudi veterans of the Afghan insurgency and openly accused Saudi Arabia's King Fahd of selling the holy sites of Islam to the United States.

Hounded by Saudi intelligence officials who arrested him for his criticism of the monarchy, Bin Laden left his homeland in 1992 for Sudan, where hard-line Islamist Hasan Turabi was in power. There, Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda organization took shape, embracing a hard-line Islamist philosophy from north African countries and the Gulf states.

String of attacks

Since then, a whole string of terrorist attacks against US targets have occurred at regular intervals:

- The first was in 1993 against the World Trade Center in New York in which a bomb killed six people and injured 1,000.
- In 1995, a bomb killed five American servicemen in Saudi Arabia.
- One year later, a powerful car bomb, again in Saudi Arabia, shattered an apartment complex where American servicemen were living, killing at least 19 soldiers and wounding 400.
- In 1998, two US embassies were bombed in East Africa, killing 224 people, including 12 US citizens.
- In December 1999, Jordanian intelligence uncovered a plot to attack US installations during millennium celebrations.
- Last year, a suicide bomber attacked the USS Cole ship off the coast of Yemen, killing 17 American servicemen.

Bin Laden never claimed responsibility for any of these attacks, but he and his extremist allies have been accused of playing a role in most of them.

Pinoy links

The tentacles of Bin Laden's network stretches out throughout the world, including the Philippines, according to military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

He operates several training camps in Afghanistan and has urged young Muslims worldwide to wage a jihad, or holy war, against the United States.

"There are training camps in every province of Afghanistan," said a senior Taliban official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Those camps are training militant Muslims from Chechnya, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, China and most Arab countries.

"The Arabs are coming and going all the time," the official said.

Philippine military intelligence reports indicate that Bin Laden provided support to both the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the extremist Abu Sayyaf.

Adan said some of Bin Laden's supporters may try to seek haven in the Philippines should the United States undertake massive retaliatory strikes against terrorist bases particularly those in the Middle East.

"It's possible that they will come over to 'friendly countries' like the Philippines," Adan said in press briefing. "There are Muslims in Mindanao who are their contacts."

Adan said Bin Laden is believed to have channeled support for local extremists through his brother-in-law Muhammad Jamal Khalifa.

Khalifa, also a Saudi national, lived in the Philippines for a number of years until 1994, establishing a network of non-government organizations and businesses.

Adan said these groups were put up "under the guise of extending help to Muslim people" but were actually intended to propagate Islamic extremism and facilitate the flow of funds to the MILF and Abu Sayyaf.

"It was during the Afghan war when the Abu Sayyaf group founding leader Abdurajak Janjalani went to Afghanistan as a volunteer," Adan said.

There, Janjalani trained in guerrilla warfare and terrorism, imbibed the doctrines of Islamic extremism and came into contact with other "mujaheedin" (Islamic freedom fighters).

Adan noted that there are "other unnamed extremist groups" in the country which have links with the Bin Laden network.

He cited as one example the case of Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, who was convicted by a US court for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Yousef visited Mindanao in the early part of 1994 to establish "cells" to serve as contacts, as well as to train Abu Sayyaf men in the use of modern explosive devices.

Poems

Bin Laden has even written poems eulogizing past terrorist attacks against the United States.

At the wedding of his son in southern Kandahar in February—a rare public appearance for the man who is protected by Afghanistan and its hard-line Islamic Taliban government—Bin Laden praised last year's suicide bombing of the USS Cole.

Of the 17 sailors who died, Bin Laden said: "The pieces of the bodies of infidels were flying like dust particles. If you would have seen it with your own eyes, you would have been very pleased, and your heart would have been filled with joy."

Bin Laden called the bombing of destroyer exposed the strength of the United States as a sham.

The suicide bombers "showed courage and took revenge in Aden and destroyed. Until then, the American ship was synonymous with the name of fear, and people were afraid of its force. When it sailed over the seas, it caused its enemies to fear, and it rode the seas with pride. It is all fake."

Bin Laden's poem, which he read out at his son's wedding, went on to say: "The destroyer was moving toward its altar of death with its false sense of invincibility."

As recently as this spring, Bin Laden instructed hard-line Islamic activists attending a Muslim convention in neighboring Pakistan to prepare the next generation for the jihad as well.

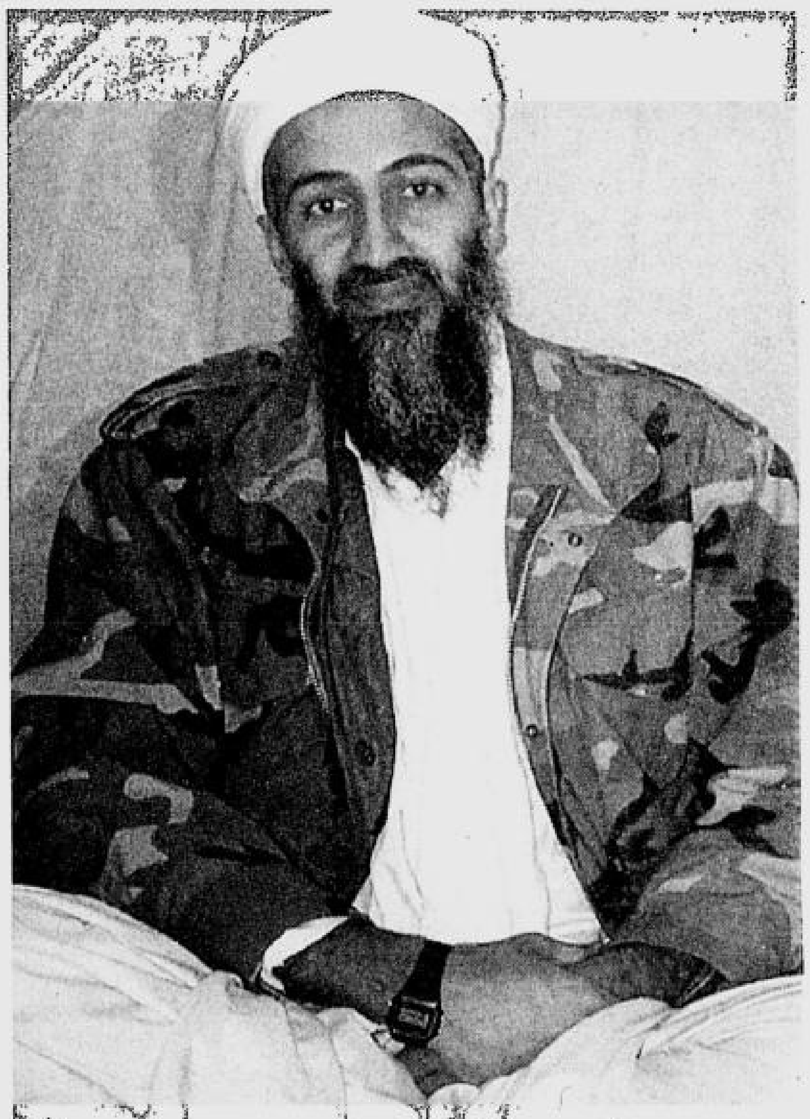
"Issue a call to the young generation to get ready for the holy war and to prepare for that in Afghanistan because jihad in this time of crisis for Muslims is an obligation of all Muslims," he said in a statement read at the May convention in northwest Pakistan.

Pressure

In 1996, Sudan bowed to relentless pressure from the United States and asked Bin Laden to leave. He moved to Afghanistan to join an old companion and guerrilla fighter during the Soviet invasion in eastern Nangarhar province. Today, it is believed that he operates at least two training centers there, at Darunta and Farmada.

There are several other camps elsewhere in the country.

He came to Afghanistan with 180 followers and three wives.



THIS is an undated file photo of Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, in Afghanistan, wanted by the US government on account of the 1998 bombing of two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Earlier this summer, a federal jury in New York convicted four Bin Laden allies for their roles in the two 1998 embassy bombings in Africa.

Earlier, the FBI put a $5-million bounty on his head, and the US State Department called Bin Laden "one of the most significant sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today." *With reports from AP and Carlito Pablo*

US focuses its probe on Osama bin Laden

(From page A1)

carried out Tuesday.

Authorities based their suspicions on the identification of a suspected hijacker on one of the list of passengers of the four jets that crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, officials said.

They also said there was other early information tying the attacks to Bin Laden, a wealthy Arab living in Afghanistan who previously has been tied to terrorist attacks against Americans overseas.

But as they cautioned that it was too early to definitively assign blame, Bin Laden yesterday congratulated the people who carried out the deadly terrorist strikes, although he denied that he was involved, a Palestinian journalist said.

"Osama bin Laden thanked Almighty Allah and bowed before him when he heard this news," Jamal Ismail, Abu Dhabi Television's bureau chief in Islamabad, Pakistan, said, quoting a close aide of Bin Laden's.

Ismail said the aide, whom he wouldn't identify by name, called him early Wednesday on a satellite telephone from a secret hideout in Afghanistan.

Bin Laden praised the people who carried out the attacks in Washington and New York, Ismail said, quoting the aide. "But he had no information or knowledge about the attack" ahead of time, said Ismail, a journalist who has long-standing ties with Bin Laden and has won rare interviews with him several times over the last few years.

The aide said that Bin Laden has described the devastation in the United States as "a punishment from Allah," Ismail said. The United States had invited Allah's wrath because it is trying to control the entire world by force, Ismail said, quoting the aide.

"There are thousands of Muslims who have vowed for jihad (or a holy war) and martyrdom," according to Bin Laden's aide. "They have experienced to fight with all sorts of weapons."

The aide also denied reports of Bin Laden's deteriorating health, according to Ismail, saying: "These are all false reports. He is well and strong."

Hunt on in Florida

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was preparing to search locations in Broward county in south Florida and the Daytona Beach area in central Florida, Florida Department of Law Enforcement spokesperson Rick Morera said.

The locations had links to the suspected Bin Laden supporter on the jet passenger list, officials said.

US intelligence intercepted communications between Bin Laden supporters discussing the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, according to Utah Senator Hatch.

"They have an intercept of some information that included people associated with Bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit," Hatch said in an interview with The Associated Press. He declined to be more specific.

Hatch also said law enforcement has data possibly linking one person on one of the four ill-fated flights to Bin Laden's organization, known as Al Qaeda or The Base.

Monumental task

As a US investigation that could take months and even years began, security analysts said the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania could be a source of quick clues if the plane's black box can be located.

"Some of the first clues will come from the plane," said Eugene Poteat, a retired CIA intelligence officer. The black box, which captures instrument readings and recordings from the flight deck, may have captured voices of those who crashed the plane.

Every possible lead was pursued. Authorities in New York were examining a van based on a lead it may be connected to the attacks, officials said.

The US government unleashed legions of intelligence and law enforcement experts to begin identifying those who planned and carried out the attacks.

"Thousands of FBI agents in field offices and international legal offices are cooperating in this investigation," US Attorney General John Ashcroft said. He said numerous federal law enforcement agencies were aiding the effort.

Investigators face a monumental task, especially in New York.

Sifting through the rubble, which yielded key clues in the Oklahoma City bombing, will be extremely difficult because of the amount of debris from the World Trade Center calamity.

Int'l menace

In recent months Bin Laden's followers are reported to have been plotting several terrorist attacks around the world, targeting US and Israeli interests.

A CIA spokesperson recalled that agency Director George Tenet warned Congress in February of possible "attacks without warning" by Bin Laden and his global network.

Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson told the US-based Fox cable news network that Bin Laden was a "menace to the international community, not just to the United States." *(See profile on Page A1.)*

Bin Laden is believed to have significant influence within the secretive Taliban regime, which is under US-led United Nations sanctions for its refusal to extradite him to the United States.

The Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, held a press conference hours after three hijacked jets smashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

He condemned the attacks but warned Washington it would be a "big mistake" to retaliate against the Taliban or Bin Laden.

"Osama is only a person—he does not have the facilities to carry out such activities," Zaeef said.

"We want to tell the American people that Afghanistan feels their pain. We hope that the terrorists are caught and brought to justice."

Zaeef said the Taliban did not expect any "speedy and thoughtless action" against the puritanical Islamic regime or Bin Laden.

"It would be a very big mistake on the part of America (to attack Afghanistan)," the ambassador said.

"We do not allow Osama bin Laden to use the state of Afghanistan against any country. We have taken from him all means of communications and he is not in contact with anyone."

‘Redundancy’

Somehow, the attackers who orchestrated the strike went undetected by US intelligence and law enforcers.

The terrorists used the sophisticated concept of "redundancy"—incorporating several separate, coordinated attacks—that allowed the operation to continue even if one group was detected.

"Even if our intelligence people were following one of the guys around, that didn't compromise the other cells. They were still able to operate," said Tim Brown, senior analyst with Global Security.org in Washington, D.C., which researches proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Another expert noted that the devastating strikes appeared to be the first major terrorist use of suicide attacks within the United States.

"We believed or hoped that the tactic of a suicide bombing would not be exported," he said. "This is a new threat for us."

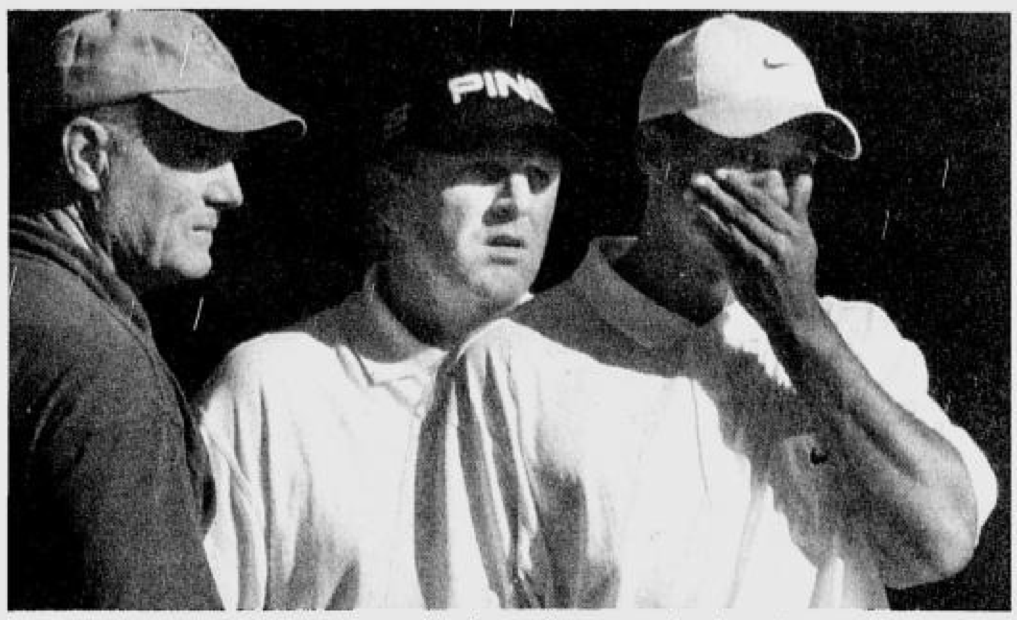
Fear was elsewhere

American analysts said that while counterterrorism officials have examined the risk of attacks on strategic buildings using commandeered commercial jets, they were more fearful of the massive loss of life that could result from the use of chemical weapons.

"There's been an increased focus on biological and chemical terrorism, in terms of mass casualties," said Steven Emerson of the Investigative Project, a Washington, D.C.-based research group focused on international terrorism.

Brown said methods used in recent hijackings and terrorist attacks have led analysts to question the focus by the Pentagon and intelligence agencies on terrorists striking the United States with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

In terms of cost of materials, Brown surmised that the airliner attacks cost even less than last year's bombing of the USS Cole, which hobbled a high-tech vessel worth around $1 billion. That attack required only a few thousand dollars in chemicals and a speedboat. *Reports from Associated Press and Agence France Presse*



WOODS (right) and Mark Calcavecchia (center) express shock to the news of terrorists crashing two planes into the World Trade Center, and the twin 110-story towers collapsing from PGA Security official Joe Corless, during a practice round for the American Express World Golf Championships at the Bellerive Country Club in Town & Country, Missouri on Tuesday. AP

Events canceled in wake of attacks

Sad, sad day for America–Tiger

NEW YORK—Sports events were canceled across the United States Tuesday in the wake of deadly terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

The daily grind of professional and college practices halted, as athletes and their coaches tried to come to grips with the tragedy.

Ballparks were empty, racetracks were dark and sports television networks dropped highlight films and replayed scenes of the day's devastation.

"This is a sad, sad day in America," golfer Tiger Woods said.

Baseball, with just 2-1/2 weeks remaining in its pennant races, perhaps was most affected. Teams are fighting for playoff berths and Barry Bonds still hopes to make history by topping Mark McGwire's home run record. Aside from work stoppages, it was the first time since the Allied invasion of France that baseball wiped out a whole day of regular-season play.

In the interest of security and out of a sense of deep mourning for the national tragedy that has occurred today, all major league baseball games for today have been canceled, commissioner Bud Selig said.

Yankee Stadium, perhaps the building that most symbolizes American sports, was evacuated within 90 minutes of the first attack. Security was tightened outside the 78-year-old ballpark, located in the South Bronx, more than 16 kilometers (10 miles) from the World Trade Center.

The ballpark is ringed with police, Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone said after leaving his office.

The NFL, criticized for playing after President Kennedy's assassination in 1963, said it wasn't sure whether to play this weekend's schedule.

College football commissioners considered postponing the weekend's entire schedule of games, with a decision expected as early as Wednesday. Three games set for Thursday night and four on Saturday were postponed, including Washington at No. 1 Miami.

The PGA Tour canceled Thursday's starts of the World Golf Championship and two other tournaments.

Stunned Olympic officials said security for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics will be completely re-evaluated but vowed the games will go on as planned in five months.

A $200 million plan to protect athletes and spectators is no longer sufficient in the wake of the attacks, said Mitt Romney, president of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee.

"I look for the federal government to revisit the public safety plans for the games," Romney said.

The Swiss-based International Olympic Committee expressed a profound sense of shock and disbelief at the attacks.

IOC president Jacques Rogge expressed deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and sent letters of condolence to President Bush, the US Olympic Committee and the Salt Lake organizers.

Garnet Ace Bailey, 53, a former NHL player with Boston, Detroit and St. Louis, and currently director of pro scouting for the Los Angeles Kings, was aboard United Airlines Flight 175, one of two planes that hit the World Trade Center. Mark Bavis, an amateur scout for the Kings, also was aboard.

In Milwaukee, Selig called off the baseball owners' quarterly meeting that was set to start Tuesday, but did not make any decision about Wednesday's games.

"The greatest country in the history in the world being attacked. So all of this doesn't mean very much today," he said. *AP*

Sta. Lucia, SMB wallop rivals

GAMES TOMORROW *(Philsports)*
5:05p.m.—Shell vs Alaska
7:10p.m.—Swift vs Tanduay

By June Navarro

STA. Lucia Realty proved steadier down the stretch to pull off of a convincing 96-77 victory over Red Bull last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Import Damien Owens, Dennis Espino and sniper Paolo Mendoza all sparkled as Sta. Lucia notched its second straight victory.

Mendoza's spectacular shots from afar coupled with Owens' dominating stance put together the pieces for the Realtors in the first half as they exploited the subdued performance of the Thunder.

San Miguel Beer opened its title-retention bid in devastating fashion following a 114-91 rout over Purefoods in the second game. The Hotdogs slipped to 1-1.

UAAP today (Ateneo gym)

10:30 a.m.—NU vs UE (jrs); 12:30 p.m.—UP vs ADMU (jrs); 2:30 p.m.—NU vs UE (srs); 5 p.m.—UP vs ADMU (srs)

NCAA today: (Rizal M.C.)

12 noon—PCU vs Letran (jrs/srs); 3:30 p.m.—SBC vs St. Benilde (jsrs/srs)

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Security tightened at Games venues

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR—Looks like the World Trade Center tragic incident has spilled over to the sprawling National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

This happened yesterday as security was tightened at all venues and the main press center of the ongoing SEA Games following terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on Tuesday.

A report from news agency Bernama said that police and other security personnel at the venues had been instructed to conduct random checks on the people and bags. "Police have also been told to be alert on suspicious characters.

Similar checks will also be carried out at the MPC," according to a spokesman assigned at the MPC.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Thuan Sham Sudin, who is in charge of security in the National Stadium here in Bukit Jalil, some 30 minutes away by land from downtown.

About 6,000 athletes and officials from the 10 Asean nations are participating in the biennial games which officially opened on Sept. 8. According to the report, police have mobilized up to 7,400 personnel to provide security and traffic arrangements during the Games which will end on Monday.

In a related development, Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, the world's tallest building, was ordered evacuated following the World Trade Center attack.

Some 300 sportswriters from the competing countries watched in shock a TV footage of the incident at the MPC. Filipino sportswriters were one in saying that the extraordinary event in the US will have a tremendous effect on a worldwide level.

SEAG GOLF

Juvic, Carmelette poised to win titles

KUALA LUMPUR—Juvic Pagunsan and Carmelette Villaroman yesterday grabbed the lead in the men and women golf competitions, respectively, in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

PAGUNSAN

VILLAROMAN

The 23-year-old Pagunsan burned the course for the second time in three days with another five-under-par 67 to tie his own course record at the plush Sungai Long Golf & Country Club, an exclusive course designed and built by Jack Nicklaus five years ago.

"I'm dedicating this second 67 to my sweetheart, Len Len," said Pagunsan in Tagalog. "But of course, it goes without saying that this is also for my parents and foremost, for my countrymen."

Villaroman, 24, turned in the day's best of 70 in women's play for 145, giving the Philippines a rare chance of sweeping the gold medals in both divisions of golf.

The country won both gold medals in 1991 in Manila, in 1993 in Singapore and in 1997 in Jakarta where Gerald Rosales was the best male performer and Dorothy Delasin the female gold medalist.

Both Rosales and Delasin have turned professional.

Pagunsan has better chances for the gold today than Villaroman after officials disqualified Thailand hot shot Prom Meesawat for signing a wrong scorecard.

Prom, the silver medalist in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games and Pagunsan's chief rival for the gold here, signed for a birdie on No. 2 where he had actually scored a par after posting a 68.

When told of his disqualification, the chubby-faced Prom, a tall and bulky 19-year-old who was eating his late lunch at the clubhouse, broke down like a baby. He didn't finish his meal, cupped his face and stooped into the table, sobbing uncontrollably. He had earlier shot 73-72.

Challenging Pagunsan for the gold today is Prom's teammate Wisut Artjanawat (71-75-72), who was at 3-under to trail Pagunsan (67-74-67) by five shots.

"I'm sorry for Prom," said Pagunsan in Tagalog. "But then, there's still a war out there and I need a 68 tomorrow to ensure the victory. I don't think Wisut can shoot a 10-under tomorrow."

Villaroman was a mere stroke up on Titiya Plucksataporn, who shot a 75 after a 71, going into today's battle for the women's gold.

"I'll do my best tomorrow and I hope my best will win the gold," said Villaroman, a former junior world champion and now a mother of one. "My putts fell today and I hope they fall again tomorrow."

Her teammates Heidi Chua and Ruby Chico also improved on their showing yesterday. Chua shot 73 after a 78 and Chico a 74 after an 80 as the RP ladies also stayed in contention for the team gold.

The RP boys also looked poised to contend for the team gold on Sept. 15-16 as Jay Bayron shot a 75, Boyet Saragoza a 76 and Marvin Dumandan also a 76.

The boys were running fourth in the nine-nation meet but the placings after today will determine the pairings for the team match play on Saturday and Sunday.

In firing his second 67, Pagunsan, the son of touring pro Juanito, gunned down seven birdies on 13 greens hit and saved pars on six missed greens.

"My putting touch was back," said Pagunsan, who saved par on 18 from a three-foot downhill putt after a birdie-bogey on 16 and 17.

RP sked today

(Sept. 13)

SWIMMING: 9 a.m.—Women's 50m freestyle (L. Ang), men's 200m free (Molina, Kalaw), women's 200m fly (Dacanay), men's 200m fly (Piccio), women's 400 ind. medley (Danila, Guerrero), men's 4x100m med. relay (Piccio, Molina, Kalaw, Mendoza)

ARCHERY: 8:30 a.m.—Elims round/final, women's 50m, 30m, 70m, 60m

ATHLETICS: 9:30 a.m.—Decathlon: 110m hurdles, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw, 1500m run (Gallenero, Fresnido); women's javelin throw, final (Amandoron); women's high jump, final (Atienza); men's long jump, final (Delicano, Pilasplias); men's 400m, final (Jimar, Candelario, Lozada); women's 500m, final (Martes).

BADMINTON: 7:30 p.m.—Ladies' singles, qf (Asuncion); men's singles, qf (Asuncion) Note: Athletes' schedule depends on their showing in earlier round

BASKETBALL: 8 p.m.—RP vs Thailand (men)

SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS: 10 A.M.—Snooker team, prelim round, (Manalo, Guevarra, Ortega, Tauro Jr.) vs Brunei; 9-ball pool singles (Lining vs N. Nam, Vietnam/L. Duc, Vietnam vs Corteza), qf). Finals: billiards team, prelim (Grandea, Guevarra, Manalo, Reyes) vs Vietnam

BOWLING: 9 a.m.—Team of 5, men and women

BOXING: 3 p.m.—Semifinals

CYCLING (Mountain Bike): 3 p.m.—Downhill, seeding run, men (Oncada, Borja)

GOLF: 8 a.m.—Final round, men and women

JUDO: 4 p.m.—Heavyweight, half heavyweight (men and women)

LAWN BOWLS: 8:30 a.m.—Women's singles (Knight vs S'pore); women's pairs (Rivera-Greenlees vs Malaysia); women's fours (Witheridge, Kucharsyki, Bruce, Benthall vs Brunei)

PENCAK SILAT: 9 a.m.—Tanding (fighting), qf; tunggal, women, finals; ganda (double), men, finals; regu, men, finals.

ROWING: 9 a.m.—Men's singles sculls (Tolentino) men's coxless pairs (Cordova-Regalado)

SEPAK TAKRAW: 9 a.m.—RP vs S'pore, men's regu, 2:30 p.m.—RP vs Brunei, men's regu, 8:30 p.m.—RP vs Thailand, men's regu

SQUASH: 10 a.m.—Pool matches

SHOOTING: 8 a.m.—25m std. pistol, men (Padilla, Dionesa, Medina); 50m sport rifle prone, women (Luiz, Samaco, Santiago)

TENNIS: 9 a.m.—Men and ladies ind., 2nd and 3rd round

VOLLEYBALL: 4:30 p.m.—RP vs Malaysia (Women)

WEIGHTLIFTING: 8 a.m.—Jaluag, 85 kg, Lee, 94 kg.

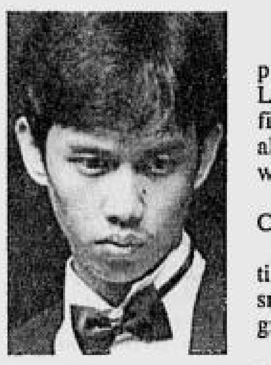
Lee loves upsetting favorites

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR—Shocking touted rivals happens to be Lee Van Corteza's favorite game.

In a gigantic upset, the 22-year-old Davaoeño tripped countryman Efren "Bata" Reyes, 5-4, giving the Philippines its first billiards gold by topping the 8-ball singles competitions Wednesday night at Gym One inside the National Stadium here.

Beating highly rated foes isn't new to Corteza, who started to learn the rudiments of billiards at the tender age of 12.



CORTEZA

Two years ago in Brunei, Corteza pulled off a similar feat—stunning Leonardo "Rattlesnake" Andam in the final of the nine-ball singles. He was also part of the Philippine team which won the team nine-ball event.

"Beating Bata is like a dream," said Corteza.

Reyes, the former world nine-ball titlist, who still have one chance to snare a gold in the 15-ball singles, was gracious in defeat.

"The boy (Corteza) is good. He deserves to win and I'm glad for him," Reyes said.

Marave shines

DEMVEL Racing's Pepon Marave virtually clinched the title in the centerpiece formula A Class after the penultimate round of the 2001 Shell Super Kart Championship Series at the Kart Zone circuit in Mabolo, Cebu City recently..

The series' other benefactors are Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises. Eastway Racing, Matchbox/Hot Wheels and WG&A Shipping Company.

The 37-year-old former karting and formula champion drove trouble-free throughout the two-day event to grab pole at the time trials.

This paved the way for him to fashion out first place finishes in all three heats and netted him a leg aggregate of 75 points to put him beyond the reach of his closest pursuer Jinky Cabalinan.

Ucap-BJ tilt finals under way tonight

ANOTHER jampacked crowd is expected at Mandaluyong Coliseum tonight as the 1st Ucap/BJ Greenwoood 7-Stag Derby enters its championship round beginning at 6 with 50 quality fights on tap.

Derby hosts are Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos, while sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The favorites, who scored three victories each Tuesday night, are Andy Lao RV Princess 888), Danny Ty and Boy de Roca (BL Showdown), Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB), Pol Estrellado and Boyboy Roa (PE San Pablo PBRJ).

With 2.5 points are Raymond Velayo, Sandy Javier and Boy Diaz (RMR Arnis Master UCAP 7-Stag Oct. 2 and 4) and lawyer Ram Lopez (Altuz Oct. 16 and 18).

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the "Sir Vincent 5-Stag Derby" is tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 14, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. This one day event hosted by businessman-sportsman Vic Yu is slated on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Slated next week, Sept. 18 and 20, is the "2nd UCAP/PE San Pablo PBRJ 7-Stag Derby" to be hosted by Pol Estrellado and Boyboy Roa.

Pampanga hosts 'Sagupaan'

COCKFIGHT aficionados in Central Luzon are in for a pleasant surprise when the country's bigtime cockers, led by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, compete in the much-awaited Sagupaan 5-Stag Invitational Derby" on Sept. 29 at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City.

Up for grabs is a guaranteed prize of P500,000, according to Antonio who is hosting the event.

Farm-to-farm screening will be held on Sept. 15, 16, 22 and 23. Stags eight to nine months old will be accepted.

Stags wingbanded by NGBA, GFBAN, NCA, Ucap, Pagba and Migba are qualified but will be legbanded on the day of the derby, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, for re-classification. Allowed weights are from 1.7 kg To 2.2 kg.

Antonio, host of the Sagupaan TV show on IBC-13 every Saturday (12:30 noon to 1 p.m.), has also invited prominent cockers from Araneta Coliseum, Mandaluyong Coliseum and Roligon.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Charming Belle 2. Ayra's Pet 3. The King 4. Rainmaker

Race 3—1. Jerold's Dream 2. Marissa's Dianne 3. Kala Star 4. Hong Kong Treasure 5. Unknown Entry

Race 4—1. Hostile Witness 2. Hammerhead 3. My Indy 4. Regimental Lass

Race 5—1. Heavy Metal 2. Woman's Task 3. Knows Love 4. Enseguida 5. Intunda 6. Musical Owl

Race 6—1. All Grace 2. Mahdi's Gold 3. Absolute Power 4. Cue Artist

Race 7—1. Gold and Dollar 2. Irish Star 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Summit Power

Race 8—1. Real McCoy 2. Metronome 3. Maginoo's Pride 4. All Powerful 5. Gifted Galloper

Race 9—1. Terminal Bound 2. Strong Bird 3. Ray Moon 4. Standout 5. Hercules 6. May's Magic

RP 5 face Thais today

GAMES TODAY
4 p.m.—Singapore vs Vietnam (m)
6 p.m.—Malaysia vs Philippines (w)
8 p.m.—Thailand vs Philippines (m)

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR—Picked as overwhelming favorite even before the opening tip-off, the Philippines tries to extend its domination as it clashes with perennial runner-up Thailand today in the 21st SEA Games men's basketball tournament at the Malaysian Basketball Association Gym here.

Fully rested, the unbeaten Filipino dribblers should have no trouble beating the Thais, whose own bid suffered a tremendous blow when they bowed to the Indons, 91-87, last Tuesday.

"We're not going to take any chances," said Filipino mentor Boysie Zamar. "Anything can happen and we're going to treat this game as a do-or-die game." The Filipinos, mercurial in this level of competition, were in high spirits after a two-hour practice yesterday at the MBA Gym.

The game is set at 8 p.m. with members of the Filipino community here expected to give their all-out support to the team, whose stint here was marred by controversies back home.

Slotman Rommel Adducul remains the heart and soul of the team but focus has been on forwards Eddie Laure and Ruben de la Rosa, Junel Mendiola, Cris Calaguio and SEA Games newcomers Chito Victolero and Jomar Tierra.

Hardly playing with all their might, the Nationals walloped the Indonesians, 112-74, last Monday and then massacred the Vietnamese, 100-40, Tuesday night. Zamar, however, cautioned his charges of becoming overconfident, saying every game counts with the single round- robin format.

Saved from minor changes in its lineup, Thailand is fielding a team which has been together for the last six years. Apaipong Netsiriswan, Pramoch Jantharaniyom, Shongpop Phairotepeeraphaisan and Boonchuy Popark are well known to Zamar and the players.

At 6 p.m., the Philippine women's team meets defending champion Malaysia (1-0).

A victory by the Pinoy dribblers will move them within two wins of stretching the Philippines' reign in men's basketball. They battle the Singaporeans on Saturday, before clashing with the Malaysians on Sunday.

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Davao Leg Winners

Kiddies

Champion	Janmar B. Hondonero (Nabunturan Comprehensive High School - Compostela Valley)
1st Runner-up	James D. Bulicatin (Panabo National High School - Panabo City)
2nd Runner-up	Kenneth O. Ihalas (Nabunturan Comprehensive High School - Compostela Valley)

Juniors

Champion	Jayson B. Salubre (Carmen Nat'l. High School - Davao del Norte)
1st Runner-up	John Ritter V. Belocura (Sta. Ana Nat'l. High School - Davao City)
2nd Runner-up	Aldrin S. Salvatierra (Univ. of Southern Mindanao - Davao City)

Schedule of Next Leg
On: September 15 & 16
At: F. Barzaga Memorial School, Dasmarinas, Cavite

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Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Bell Canadian Open Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Global Golf Spotlights - Ernie Els at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA State Farm Rail Classic, Final Round at 10 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: WTA Pilot Pen Tennis, Finals at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. (r – midnight) and 10 a.m. on ESPN

BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2001 at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports

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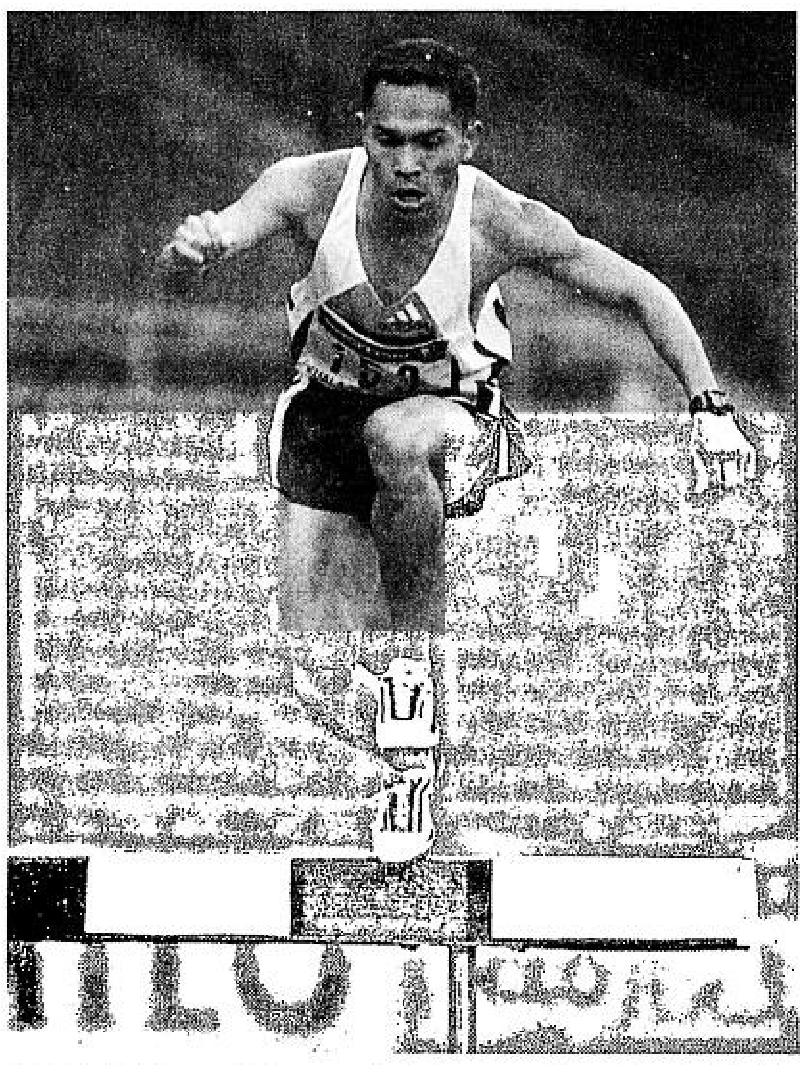
MEDAL TALLY

As of 5:30 p.m.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Malaysia	42	28	38	108
Indonesia	29	26	27	82
Thailand	26	27	31	84
Vietnam	18	18	24	60
Philippines	13	25	26	64
Singapore	10	9	16	35
Myanmar	6	8	18	32
Brunei	0	0	3	3
Cambodia	0	0	2	2
Laos	0	0	2	2



EDUARDO Buenavista en route to his record-breaking feat in the 3,000m steeplechase.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Elma's reign... (From page A24)

Rosario settled for the silver in the distaff side.

Over at the Paroj Arena in Seremban, the Filipino boxers continued to improve following opening-day losses by Juanito Magliquian and Junie Tizon. Sydney Olympian Arlan Lerio battered Indonesian Dufri Masihor, 23-9, in the 54kg quarterfinals, while battle scarred Reynaldo Galido beat Myanmar's Aung Kyaw Kyaw in the 67kg quarterfinals.

The victories assured the Philippine boxing team, which is determined to improve on its two-gold production in Brunei, of seven bronzes. Already in the semis are Ramil Zambales, Larry Semillano, Maximino Tabangcora, Romeo Brin and Violeto Payla.

Buried by the rapid improvement of neighbors Malaysia and Thailand, the Philippine gymnastics team continues its slide as it remains goldless, though Roel Ramirez won the silver in men's floor exercise with 8.55 total, way below the 9.15 gold-medal winning total of Malaysia's Ng Shu Wai.

Veteran Tac Padilla pocketed the bronze in rapid fire pistol with 665.9 pts.

Malaysian Hasli Izwan Amir ruled the event with 665.9, with Thailand's Opas Ruengpanyamut getting the .bronze in 664.8. Padilla, Carlos Vincent Medina and Inocentes Dionesa won the bronze in men's team rapid fire pistol, while in rowing the women coxless pair of Myla Babilonia and Josepyn Tolentino won the bronze, same with Edgardo Maerina and Jose Rodriguez in the lightweight double scull.

Cycling is still without a gold as veteran internationalist Victor Espiritu finished third in the 45km road race individual time trial won by Indonesian Tonton Susanto in 56:18.937.

SEAGAMES BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

Scores for Sept. 10
12/10 Philippines def. Vietnam (Men)

TEAM STANDINGS

	MEN		WOMEN	
	W	L	W	L
Philippines	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	0	0	0	0
Singapore	0	0	-	-

Games Schedule
Sept. 11 - 4pm.
Philippines vs. Vietnam (Men)

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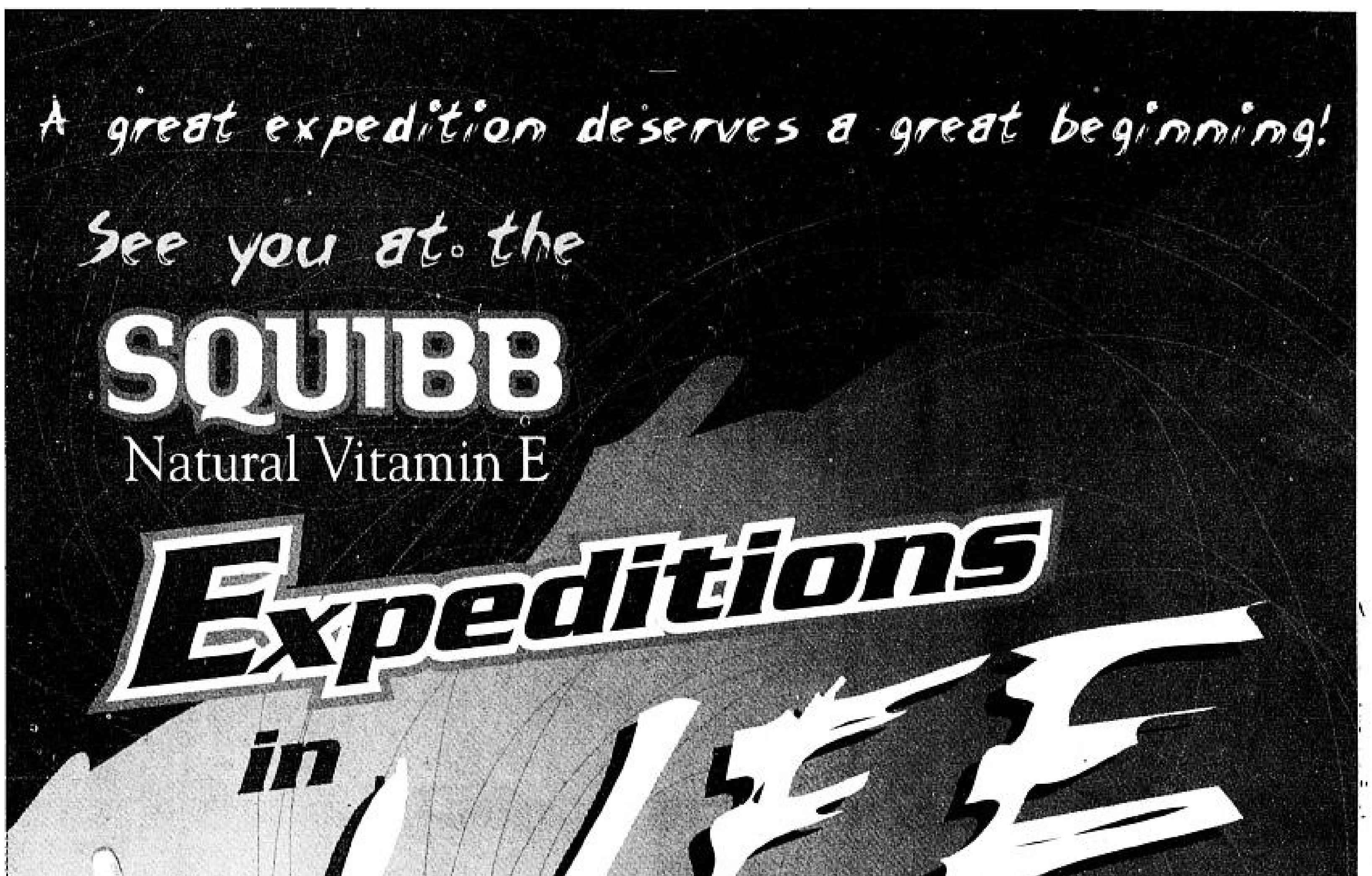
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- SEAG security tightened A22
- US sports events canceled A22
- Pinoy cagers face Thais A23

SPORTS

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Elma's reign ends

Muros 4th only in long jump

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR—The reign is over!

The courage of Elma Muros-Posadas proved not enough to turn back the hands of time as the Filipina long jump legend bid goodbye to an illustrious career on a sour note, finishing only fourth last night at the start of athletics, centerpiece event of the 21st Southeast Asian Games at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium here.

Still possessing the same grit and determination which gave her an unprecendented eight gold medals, the 34-year-old Muros-Posadas just couldn't cope up with opponents who were still kids when she won her first gold in record-breaking fashion during the 1993 Singapore SEA Games.

Teammate Eduardo Buenavista and Daud Mama somewhat erased the bitterness of Muros-Posadas' sad swan song as they finished 1-2 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Buenavista clocked 8:40.77 which shattered the SEAG mark of 8:55.85.

Buenavista's record-breaking efforts gave the Philippines its third gold after a six-gold medal showing last Tuesday. Lerma Balauitan, who qualified for the 100m finals, settled for the silver medal in long jump with 6.43m.

Vietnam's US-trained Phan Thi Thu Lan leaned on a lucky fifth jump to win the gold, with teammate Nguyen Bic Van getting the bronze.

"I have no regrets. This is God's will and I accept this with all my heart," Muros-Posadas told the INQUIRER.

Terrible Wednesday meant the Philippines failed to gain ground on Vietnam, the surprise of this biennaial Games, in the overall race.

Malaysia consolidated its frontrunning position by picking up four more gold medals to bring their haul to 61 as of presstime.

Vietnam, host of the 2003 Games, is in fourth place with a 20-18-25 gold-silver-bronze tally, while the Philippines has a 15-29-26 count, followed by Singapore with 10-9-18. The nationals are hoping to improve on their fifth place finish in Brunei.

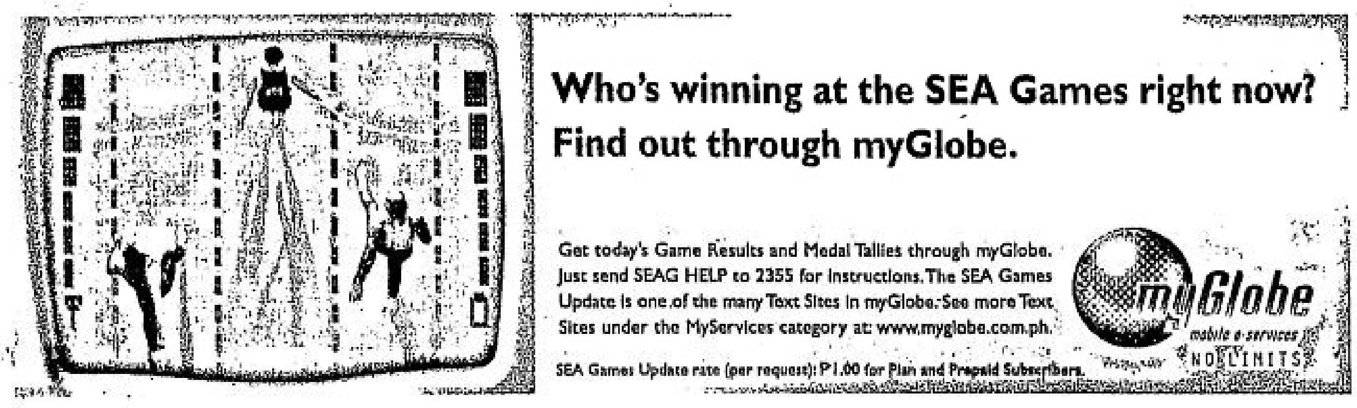
With five days to go, the Philippines is hard-pressed to strike golds in medal-rich events like judo and athletics in order to reach its target.

Walter Mendoza gave fencing its first gold by defeating teammate Edmon Velez in the final of the men's sabre event at the Multi-purpose hall here. But Mendoza's triumph failed to set up the tone for the country's campaign.

The men's trios team of Chester King, Christian Suarez, and Leonardo Rey Jr. won the gold with a new Games record of 3,941 total, relegating Malaysia (3,728) and Singapore (3,674) to the silver and bronze, respectively.

This was bowling's second gold after Arianne Cerdena-Liza del Rosario emerged best in women's doubles last Tuesday at the Perai Megalanes in Penang. Liza Clutario, singles silver medalist Cecilia Yap and Liza del

ELMA'S/ A23



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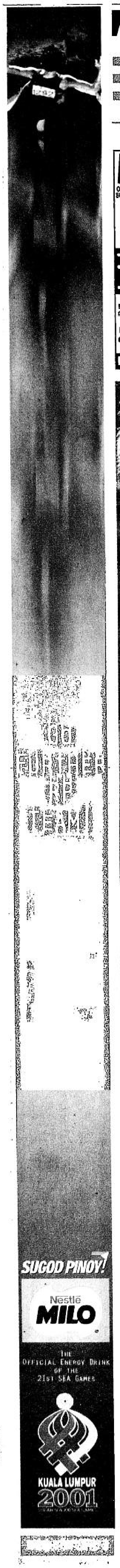

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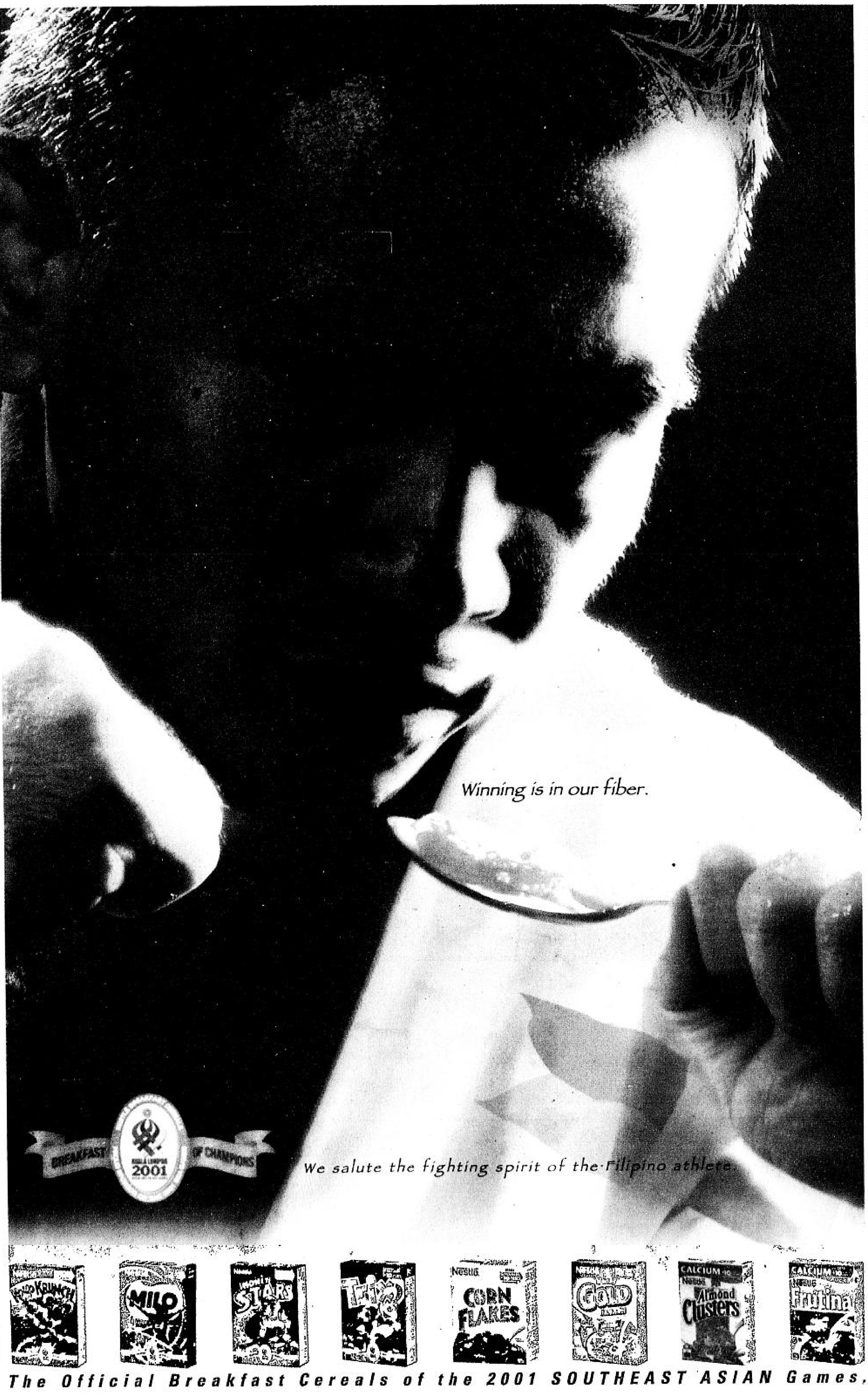

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Old, dangerous LPG tanks still in wide use, energy group says A26

DENR closes Pasig plant that leaked toxic fumes A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'State of high alert' in metropolis

Security tightened at air, sea ports, mass transit systems

BY TJ BURGONIO, GERALD G. LACUARTA, AND JEROME ANING

AUTHORITIES yesterday tightened security in the country's airports, seaports and mass transit systems in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"While we are far from the US, I have instructed heads of agencies to double security at the country's vital installations to ensure the safety of the travelling public," Transportation Secretary

STATE/ A26

Text notes appeal for prayer, warn of World War III

BY ALCUIN PAPA

NEWS of the terrorist attacks on the United States and appeals for prayer spread quickly by text messages all over the country, which is considered the text message capital of the world.

Text messages on the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington DC, headquarters of the US military, began circulating a little after 9 p.m. Tuesday.

TEXT/ A26

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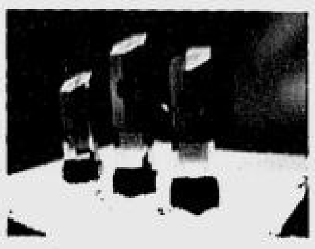

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6	Mazda	Tribute	46
7	Honda	Odyssey	42
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9	Toyota	Opa	26
10	Nissan	Bluebird Sylphy	11

The best of the best. The Japan Car of the Year is awarded to the most outstanding car of all new models launched in Japan in the same year. Fifty-four motoring journalists and automobile experts representing 27 media organizations were assembled to form the 21st Japan Car of the Year Committee. From a total of 21 new models, only ten cars were pre-selected and taken to Obuchizawa City, Yamanashi prefecture for rigorous inspection and evaluation by the jurors. They were compared against each other in terms of Development of Concept, Design, Performance, Quality and Pricing.

At the end of the long day, the all new Honda Civic was the hands down choice for the prestigious **Japan Car of the Year (2000 - 2001)**.

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Old, dangerous LPG tanks still in wide use, energy group says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THREE out of 10 liquefied petroleum gas cylinders in circulation could be defective but are still in use because industry rules are not strictly enforced.

"Of the 8 million to 10 million cylinders in use, we believe that between 3 million and 4 million should already be scrapped," said the source from the multisectoral LPG task force, who did not want to be named.

The task force is composed of representatives from the Department of Energy and private firms in the liquid petroleum gas business.

The source said half of LPG tanks in the market should undergo quality-control tests not later than June 30, 2002. But so far, only one of every five cylinders in use has undergone and passed strict "requalification" tests, the source added.

He warned cylinders that have not been tested might be defective.

"Nowadays, it is very easy for anybody to set up a cylinder manufacturing business since local governments are issuing the permits which the Department of Trade and Industry used to do."

This means old and defective LPG cylinders can be "requalified" in backyard repair shops that lack the technology and strict safety measures, the source said.

Repair and requalification done in this manner is much cheaper than having that tanks fit for use according to the rules.

A few months ago, an explosion apparently caused by a defective gas tank injured several patrons of a coffee shop in a shopping mall in Makati City.

LPG cylinders are widely used in "food courts," even though it was safer for fuel to be supplied to the cooking areas through pipes from cylinders outside mall buildings.

Under the guidelines of the Philippine National Standard for LPG cylinders issued last year, "the quality management system of the applicant-company is aligned to the applicable ISO 9000 series of standards."

The guidelines also provide that:

- cylinder makers should have furnaces than can control high temperatures up to 650 degrees Celsius;
- welders should be qualified and certified by recognized third party certifying institutions;
- manufacturers should be equipped with weighing scales, hydraulic pressure testers, tensile stress testers, thickness gauges, calipers, micrometers, etc.;
- the cylinders should pass a number of tests including those for thickness, bending and expansion, bursting and leakage, among others.

Only manufacturers with such facilities are allowed to conduct requalification and repair of LPG cylinders, according to the guidelines.

MANILA OFFICIAL TELLS DENR:

See you in court

By Jerome Aning

JUST go to court.

This was the advice of Manila's city legal officer to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, when the agency decided to stop the controversial P48.5 million parking facility project at the back of the Metropolitan Theater.

City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod said the Manila City government of Mayor Lito Atienza would disregard DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez's closure order.

DENR's Alvarez

He said Alvarez is "definitely acting beyond the boundaries of his department's mandate" when he ordered the project stopped.

"There is no law granting the DENR secretary the carte blanche power to review, approve or even stop the development projects of local government units," Monsod said.

On the other hand, Monsod said that city officials are acting "within the bounds of the law."

"To stop us from touching or developing city-owned property without a clear, legal basis is unconstitutional, illegal and confiscatory," Monsod said.

The city legal officer said the DENR "erred" when it stopped the Makati City-based Park 'N Ride Inc. because of the National Historical Institute's declaration that the location of the project is within the Mehan Garden.

Construction on the park is not allowed by law because the Mehan is a historical site.

Last month, Alvarez issued a cease-and-desist order on the project, citing Presidential Decree 260 which bars anyone from altering, destroying or repairing the original features of a site declared historical by the NHI, without permission from the NHI chair.

Even as the debate rages, the DENR sends teams to the project site daily to monitor and document Park 'N Ride's alleged violations.

Monsod insisted the project site is on Basa Street which, together with the Mehan, was not declared historical by the NHI.

"The area cannot be considered as a historical site on the mere opinion of the NHI without following the process mandated by law," Monsod said. "Furthermore, the NHI's power to declare an area as a historical site is subject to strict compliance with the provisions of the law."

The city lawyer cited Republic Act 4846 which he said "provides a process that has to be followed in the protection and preservation of Philippine cultural properties.

"This includes, among others, the convening of a panel of experts to conduct a careful study and deliberation. It even has publication requirements (so) the NHI cannot just issue a declaration without following this process."

Monsod said City Hall supports Park 'N Ride because City Hall is "exercising its duty and prerogative to implement development projects duly approved by the city council."

MANILA's Atienza

US tragedy beneficial to RP

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC showed that even the most powerful country in the world is not safe from terrorism, the worldwide plague.

But unlike small, third world countries like the Philippines, the United States can and will retaliate against those who perpetrate those supreme acts of atrocity.

We Filipinos hope the retaliation of the US will be so severe that international terrorists will no longer be able to wreak havoc on the civilized world again.

***

Countless Filipinos stayed awake Tuesday night until early yesterday morning watching the CNN on the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

Millions of people around the world, I'm sure, were also glued to their TV sets watching the developments in the greatest tragedy that has befallen the mightiest nation on earth.

For the first time in the history of the world, the national tragedy of a country was watched by the whole world on television.

***

There is a silver lining to the US tragedy. From now on, no country will be indifferent to the plight of another as far as terrorism is concerned.

Terrorists have become international outlaws. Even Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the Taliban leaders of Afghanistan have denounced the yet unidentified perpetrators of the US attacks. Of course, they fear retaliation from the US.

The United States has been provoked into stamping out international terrorism.

***

How can the Philippines benefit from the painful US experience?

We have our own terrorists, the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu, who are linked to Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi multi-millionaire. Bin Laden or his sympathizers are suspected of having a hand in the US tragedy.

Bin Laden has been known to visit the Philippines, especially Sulu, where he reportedly has a wife.

Most of the hard-core members of the Abu Sayyaf were trained in Afghanistan which is giving Bin Laden refuge.

***

If the US moves with great force against the Saudi terrorist, the little Bin Ladens in Sulu and Basilan will be adversely affected.

America, which has just been observing the Basilan hostage drama from a distance, might send its anti-terrorist commandos to help us solve the crisis.

The Philippines can invoke the mutual defense treaty with the US that says that an attack on the Philippines will be considered an attack on the US and vice versa. Since local terrorists are clearly being supported by a Middle Eastern country or a foreign terrorist like Bin Laden, we can make that a justification to seek military intervention from the US.

***

But some ultra-nationalists would definitely go against such a plan and say, "where's our pride as a nation?" or "what will happen to our sovereignty?"

The answer would be that the country is at war with terrorism, which knows no boundaries. We need all the foreign help that we can get to eliminate the terrorists in our midst. We can't depend on our inefficient military to do it.

Besides, beggars can't afford to be choosers.

***

All we have to do is ask the US to help us fight local terrorists who are getting foreign aid, and we'll get help.

Anyway, what's wrong asking help from America, which used to be our Mother Country?

***

A lot of so-called nationalistic Filipinos would scoff at the idea of having the US interfere in a purely internal affair.

But terrorism is no longer an internal affair. It has become an international problem. Democratic countries in the world, of which the Philippines is one, can only defeat terrorism if they band together.

Terrorism, like the drug problem, is no longer a parochial concern but a worldwide problem. No nation is an island in solving terrorism.

Warehouse said to contain deadly chemicals gutted

By Christian V. Esguerra

A THREE-STORY warehouse in a middle-class residential area in Malabon City went up in smoke on Tuesday night.

But the owner of the warehouse, who has not been identified, had refused to allow investigators to examine the scene, according to fire authorities.

Insp. Samuel Tadeo, Fire District II investigation chief, said that illegal chemicals could have been stored in the warehouse at 44 UE Tech St., University Hills Subdivision in Potrero, Malabon.

The chemicals, Tadao said, could have caused the blaze, which broke out about 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

Investigation showed that the fire immediately spread on the first floor and engulfed the entire structure a few hours after it started.

Firefighters from Malabon and nearby cities fought the blaze for at least eight hours before it was declared under control at 2:41 a.m. yesterday.

After the fire was put out, the owner of the warehouse ordered his security guards not to allow anyone to enter the warehouse, Tadeo said.

He said authorities would file criminal charges against the owner if he would refuse to cooperate with the investigation.

DENR closes Pasig plant that leaked toxic fumes

By Agnes Donato

THE FERTILIZER plant, which emitted toxic fumes that allegedly caused the death of a woman and the hospitalization of several others, was found to have failed to meet an environmental standard set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Result of stack sampling conducted on LMG-Chemical showed that the plant "failed to meet the DENR standard for sulfur trioxide," said a DENR official in a letter to the plant.

Corazon Davis, regional executive director of the Metro Manila Environmental Management Bureau, denied LMG-Chemical's request for an extension of the seven-day temporary lifting order issued by the DENR on Aug. 28.

The city government and environmental department ordered the closure of the plant when a resident of Barangay Kalawaan in Pasig City died and 30 other people were hospitalized after allegedly inhaling toxic fumes from chemicals emitted by the plant on Aug. 18.

But the DENR allowed the plant to reopen temporarily more than a week after the incident to give management time to conduct repairs and test the plant's operation.

Latest findings based on tests conducted on LMG-Chemphil, however, showed that the plant exceeded the allowable sulfur trioxide emission, proving it unsafe to the environment.

LMG-Chemphil was also ordered to submit a revised Environmental Management Plan, which covers all the important aspects of its operation.

This includes the description of the manufacturing process; identification of all possible sources of sulfur, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid emissions; handling and storage methods of the raw materials and finished products; and more detailed long-term mitigating measures for any malfunctioning in the process or leak in the lines or in the storage tanks.

Davis directed the officials of the plant to respect the existing cease and desist Order imposed on Aug. 22.

METROBRIEFS

Addict nabbed for stabbing boy, 3

VALENTIN Tandas, 31, a suspected drug dependent, was arrested yesterday about 10 a.m. for holding hostage and seriously hurting 3-year old Alexis Siaron in Makati City. Siaron, of Hornet Street, Palar Village, Barangay Southside, Makati, was going home with his mother, Nanette, when Tandas appeared out of nowhere and grabbed the boy. The mother screamed for help and a barangay watchman responded. The watchman tried to wrest the boy from Tandas, but the suspect was able to stab Siaron several times before he was overpowered. The boy was taken to the Rizal Medical Center, where he is now reported to be in serious condition, police said.

Nelson Flores

QC woman killed in robbery

BUSINESSWOMAN Fe Senson, 40, was shot dead inside a "tocino" outlet on 33 Kamias Road, Quezon City, when she refused to yield her cash to three robbers. Police said the robbers proceeded to strip the dying victim of her cash and valuables before they fled. Felisa Isip, storekeeper of Tita's Special Tocino, said the robbers broke into the store at 12:45 p.m. yesterday as Senson was buying *tocino*. They fled on board a Mitsubishi L-300 van.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

10 cops probed for extortion

NATIONAL Police Commission vice chair Rogelio Pureza yesterday ordered the investigation of 10 Pasay City police officers for charges of extortion. The 10, who all belong to Pasay's Drug Enforcement Unit, have been relieved from their posts for various offenses. They were SPO2 Ernesto Reyes, SPO1 Enrico Sumaway and Alberto Alabado, PO3 Rosalina Loria and Jose Anaz, PO2 Efren Abad, Elmer Dimaculangan, and Rogiwil Brooks Alabado and PO1 Ismael Gadia, and Erick Naz Nicomedus. But the accused denied the charges, saying drug peddlers filed the complaint to get even with the 10 lawmen.

Nelson Flores

'State of high alert' in . . .

(From page A25)

Pantaleon Alvarez said in a news briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Policemen and bomb-sniffing dogs were deployed at airports and seaports across the country as well as at the stations of the Metro Rail Transit and the Light Railway Transit in Metro Manila.

At Naia terminals 1 and 2, passengers, airport personnel and their vehicles have to go through more rigid security checks.

The Aviation Security Group and the Airport Police Department deployed more people to sensitive areas, especially the cargo terminal and aviation fuel depot which are located between the two terminals.

The cargo terminal is the site of one of the five bomb explosions that hit Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

Three airlines cancelled their flights to the US after the Federal Aviation Authority closed all US airports shortly after the attacks.

As of 10 a.m. yesterday, the American-owned Northwest Airlines cancelled its regular flights to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit. The Guam-based Continental Air Micronesia cancelled its two flights to Guam.

Philippine Airlines cancelled its flights to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Honolulu for the day.

There is no advisory yet on when flights to the US will resume. Naia handles about 200 incoming and outgoing flights every day.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said she placed all ports of entry on a 24-hour double alert to thwart any attempts by foreign terrorists to sneak into the Philippines.

Domingo said she also instructed Immigration Associate Commissioner Orlando Dizon to directly supervise the bureau's anti-terrorist program at Naia and to expand it to include all other ports of entry.

"We are now conducting a strict and rigid profiling of all foreigners, especially those considered as high risk nationals, not only at Naia but also in the ports of Mactan, Subic, Davao, and Laoag," said Domingo.

She said all immigration officers in the airports and seaports are under strict orders to immediately exclude and deport any foreigner who might be profiled to be a suspected terrorist.

Airport general manager Edgardo Manda suspended the issuance of access passes to Naia.

The US Embassy in Manila remained open yesterday but security was tight inside.

The US State Department did not issue any advisory to close the embassy in Manila yesterday, embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said in a telephone interview.

"We're operating and open for business," Kelley said. "Our American and Filipino employees are all here.

The chief of the Manila police said the city has been placed on a "state of high alert."

The Western Police District director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., said he sent intelligence agents to various hotels in the vicinity of the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard to conduct background checks on suspicious-looking foreign guests.

Among these hotels is the Bayview Hotel, just across the street from the US Embassy.

The WPD set up an informal command post in the hotel to better monitor the US Embassy grounds.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also ordered the WPD "to conduct intelligence operations and closely monitor personalities or groups in the city who are suspected to have ties with local and foreign terrorist groups."

Pasinos said that within minutes of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, an official from the US Embassy security office named Rey Solidium called him up and asked that policemen be deployed around the embassy compound. The request was quickly approved, Pasinos said.

He also deployed additional men to help guard the embassies of the US and other countries in Manila, Malacañang, the Supreme Court, national and local government offices and other strategic sites such as the Ermita-Malate tourist belt, the Light Rail Transit, the North and South Harbors, and the Pandacan oil depot.

Pasinos said Manila had been on alert since 6 p.m. Tuesday in anticipation of a large labor rally near the presidential palace and President Macapagal-Arroyo's departure for Japan.

He said the WPD sent a total of 1,086 policemen to various parts of Manila. Of these, between 300 and 400 would be deployed to the US Embassy, Malacañang and the oil depot.

Mayor Atienza ordered all Philippine flags in Manila to fly at half mast as an expression of mourning and as a sign of protest over the "treacherous and cowardly attacks."

Police presence was increased and security tightened at the LRT station and shopping malls in Caloocan and nearby cities.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, chief of the Northern Police District, said the police forces in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela have gone on full alert.

The 100 additional police officers would assist security guards in inspecting the bags of LRT passengers, he said.

Uniformed policemen would also board LRT coaches, he said.

In December 2000, at least 40 people were killed by a bomb that ripped through the front coach of the LRT at the Blumentritt station. The incident was one of five simultaneous bombings in Metro Manila that day. ***With reports from Agnes Donato, Christian V. Esguerra***

Texting appeals . . .

(From page 25)

By yesterday morning, the text messages became appeals for prayer for the victims and for a stop to the terrorism. One message read: "Jesus, Lord of the Universe, fill New York and Washington with your most precious blood so that the reign of evil will stop and your love will rule above all. Please pass."

The most affecting message that went around yesterday was about a prophesy of Nostradamus.

The chilling message quoted Nostradamus: "In the city of York, there will be a great collapse, twin brothers. Torn apart by chaos, while the fortress falls, the great leader will succumb, the third big war will begin when the big city is burning."

"Twin brothers" is believed to refer to the twin towers of the World Trade Center that collapsed following the attacks, "the third big war" to World War II and "the great leader will succumb" to the death of a US president.

The assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, World War II and other important events in history were said to have been among the predictions of Nostradamus.

As usual, jokes also flew. One said Sen. Panfilo Lacson "denies involvement" in the attacks. Another, sent to reporters covering Camp Crame, said a team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police has been sent to the US to investigate Lacson's involvement in the attacks.

Lacson flew to the US last weekend when the Senate took a recess. The Senate is investigating allegations by Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces chief Col. Victor Corpus and former civilian agent Mary Ong alias Rosebud of Lacson's involvement in illegal drugs and kidnapping.

Ong and Corpus also told the Senate that Lacson is keeping huge dollars deposits in the US.

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4	MANO MANO 2
5	KNIGHT'S TALE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	MANO MANO 2
3	KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	MANO MANO 2
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	MANO MANO 2
2	BANYO QUEEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SCARY MOVIE 2
2	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DOLBY)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BANYO QUEEN
2 (DOLBY)	KNIGHT'S TALE
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	NAKED EYE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS)	MANO MANO 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.6883

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	SHREK

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BANYO QUEEN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	A.I
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SHREK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SCARY MOVIE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS EX)	A.I

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
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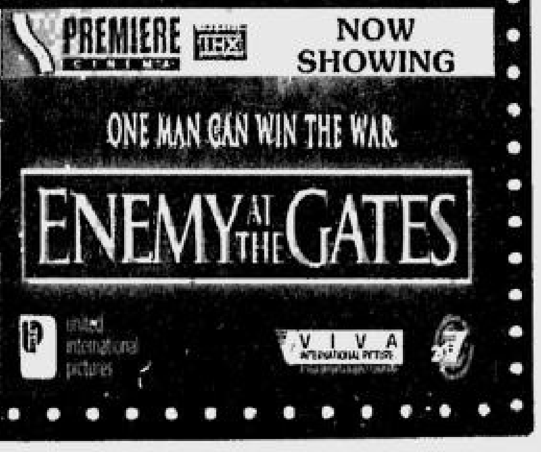

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1 THX	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	A.I.
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	BANYO QUEEN
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	A.I.
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES
9	CROCODILE 2
10	SHREK

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE 2
4	A.I.
5	BANYO QUEEN
6	SCARY MOVIE 2
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	A.I.
3	MANO MANO 2
4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	CROCODILE 2
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SCARY MOVIE 2

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
5	A.I.
6	MANO MANO 2

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	ANIMAL
4	SHREK
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BANYO QUEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANO MANO 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	AMORSEKO / KAMASUTRA 2001
ODEON	BANYO QUEEN
ODEON-2	CROCODILE 2
ROBEN	MANO MANO 2
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	TOM RAIDER / ALONG CAME A SPIDER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	MANO MANO 2
REMAR	MANO MANO 2
REMAR-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BANYO QUEEN
B	MANO MANO 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ASIAN CHILDREN ARTS FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-5	SHREK
CINEMA-6	ENEMY AT THE GATES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WINASAK NA PANGARAP
CINEMA-2	STONE
CINEMA-4	BOBOT

INVENTOR

Nanette whips up 'Menu'

FOLLOWING a successful performance in "Buding for Senator," where she played different characters of senatorial wannabes, Nanette Inventor ignites the concert stage anew with "Menu," a song and comedy series, written and directed by Nanette herself.

"Menu" will highlight slices of life woven together in exciting song and comedy numbers, interspersed with vignettes of everyday occurrences. It will also showcase the many facets of life, whether it be a job, hobby, chore, idiosyncracy or quirk.

"We find choices or menus in everything we do and use," Nanette says. "Computers and cellphones have menus. Restaurants have menus. Even when we shop, there are menus. We always have choices. That is what the show is all about.

"Menu is a preparation of down-to-earth home-cooked, social, political, moral and spiritual recipes garnished with an enjoyable selection of songs."

"Menu" goes onstage at the Republic of Malate on all Fridays of October, starting Oct. 5.

For tickets, call 303-3529 to 30 or Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management at 721-4405, local 102.

Marilou . . .

(From page A28)

Laureates. They signify the great respect and deep appreciation that the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes bestow on the outstanding artists and scholars it has chosen to honor, from a field of hundreds of other worthy contenders.

The Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes were established to honor the outstanding work of individuals or organizations to preserve and create unique and diverse cultures in Asia. It aims to foster Asian culture and promote the recognition of its value, with a view to instituting a basic framework for mutual learning and extensive interaction between Asians.

Post Laureates include Japanese film director **Akira Kurosawa**, Thai writer and statesman **Kukrit Pramoj**, Indian sitar player **Ravi Shankar**; Korean-American video artist **Nam June Paik**, Korean film director **Im Kwon-taek**, Indonesian dancer and dance scholar **R.M. Soedarsono**, Taiwanese film director **Hou Hsiao Hsien**, Singaporean visual artist **Tang Da Wu** and Malaysian shadow play master **Hamzah Awang Amat**.

Marilou Diaz-Abaya and the other 2001 Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize Laureates are in very good company, indeed!

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Marilou Diaz-Abaya receives Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize today

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT 2 p.m. today, Sept. 13, ace Filipino film director **Marilou Diaz-Abaya** will be made a laureate of the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes 2001 at the ACROS Fukuoka Symphony Hall in Fukuoka City, Japan. Diaz-Abaya is only the second artist from the Philippines to be given the prized honor, after National Artist **Leandro Locsin** (in 1992).

An audience of 1,500 is expected to witness the prize presentation ceremony. Aside from Diaz-Abaya, who has been honored as Laureate of the Arts and Culture Prize, other awardees are Prof. **Muhammad Yunus**, Laureate of the Grand Prize; Prof. **Hayami Yujiro**, Laureate of the Academic Prize, and **Thawan Duchanee**, Laureate of the Arts and Culture Prize.

After the awards ceremony, there is a press conference scheduled at 3:30 p.m. today, during which each of the laureates will be interviewed. At 6 p.m., a banquet in honor of the Laureates will be held at the Hotel New Otani Hakata.

In the succeeding days, public forums have been scheduled for the Laureates starting with Prof. Yujiro at 2 p.m. on Sept. 14 on "Market, State and Community in Economic Development. At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Duchanee speaks on "Message of the Soul."

At 1 p.m. on Sept. 15, Ms Diaz-Abaya talks about the Philippines in "What I Want To Tell—People and Their Society." At 4 p.m., Prof. Yunus speaks on "Micro-credit and Empowerment of Women."

Also in the afternoon of Sept. 15, there will be an open-air artistic performance, "Serenity and Dynamism in Thawan's World," by Thawan Duchanee, the Thai visual artist who has been named 2001 Laureate of the Arts and Culture Prize.

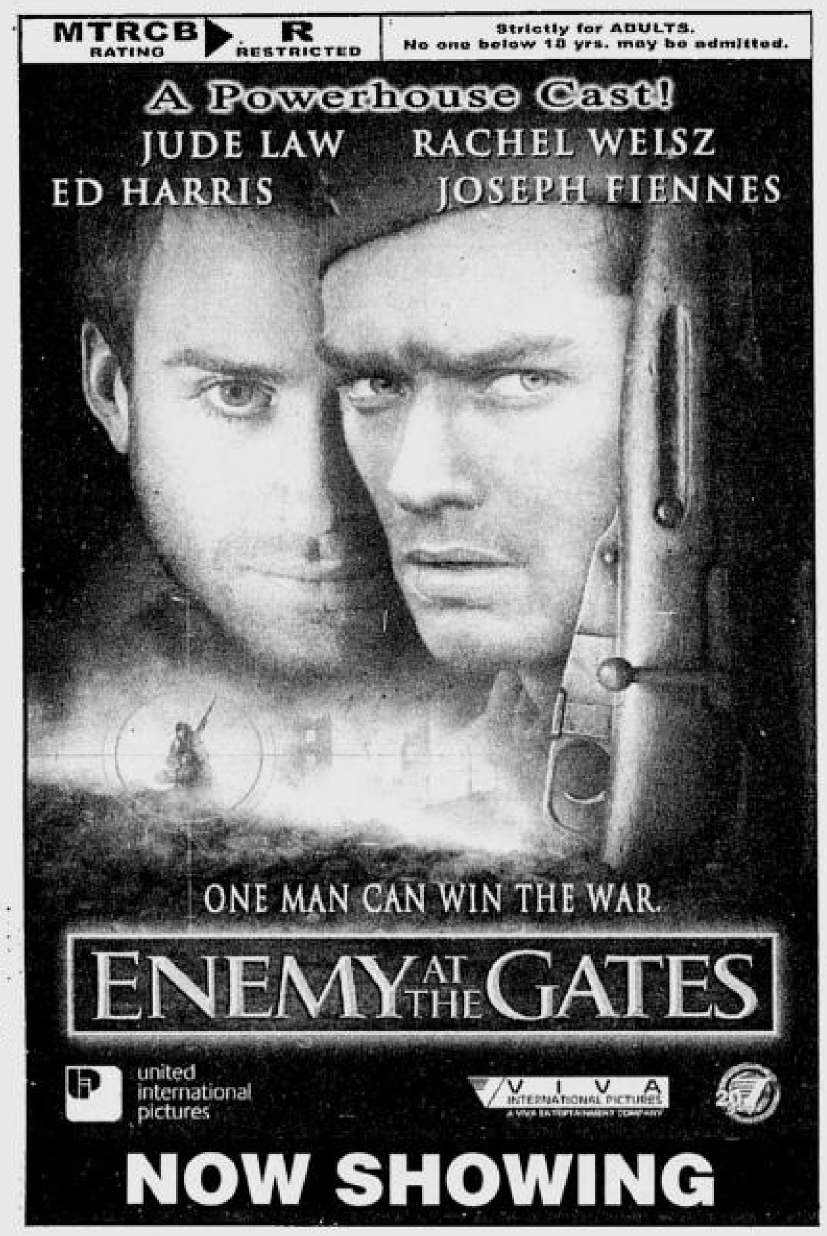
At 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 16, all of the Laureates will be featured in the forum, "Asian Soul—Pursuit of Human Dignity." They will share their thoughts on how they came to be involved in their respective careers, and how they view Asia in the open and freewheeling atmosphere of the 21st century.

In addition, school visits are scheduled from Sept. 14 to 17. Each Laureate will talk to students in various elementary, junior high and high schools in Fukuoka City.

A special highlight of the Fukuoka Culture Prizes honors this year is "Director in Focus: Marilou Diaz-Abaya," a commemorative retrospective of Diaz-Abaya's films, specially organized by the Focus on Asia 2001—Fukuoka International Film Festival, from Sept. 15 to 24, at the El Gala Main Hall and other movie theaters. Seven of Diaz-Abaya's best films will be shown.

These are heady honors indeed for Diaz-Abaya and the other

MARILOU/ A27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ENEMY AT THE GATES
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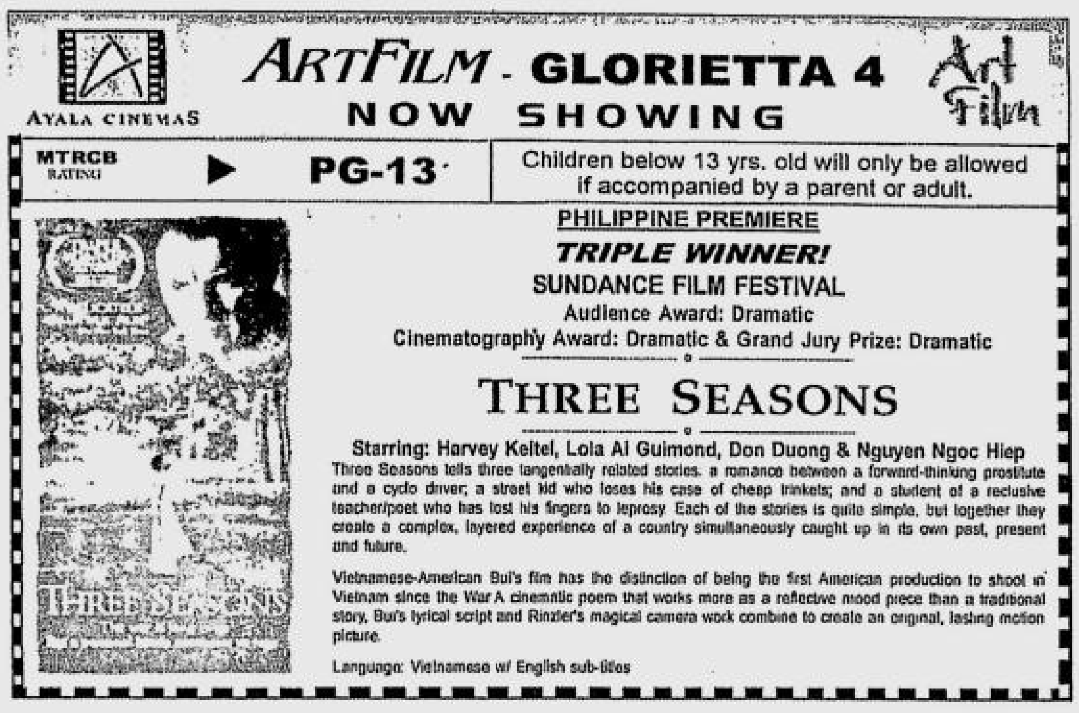
AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
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Art Film
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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
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SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
Audience Award: Dramatic
Cinematography Award: Dramatic & Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic
THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Al Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories. a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS SEPT. 19 (WED.)
Art Film
A MUST SEE!
CAMERON DIAZ SHINES IN THIS FILM!
THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS
Jordana Brewster Christopher Eccleston & Cameron Diaz
Based on Jennifer Egan's first novel, follows the journey of eighteen-year-old Phoebe, who travels to Europe in the late 1970s to find out what had caused the death of her sister, Faith, several years earlier while traveling there with her boyfriend, Wolf. On her journey of discovery, Phoebe retraces Faith's trail from San Francisco to Paris, and finally to Portugal to the very cliff side village where Faith had committed suicide – but not before experiencing a bad LSD trip and sleeping with her dead sister's boyfriend first. It's a haunting tale that interweaves death, mystery, memory and loss. But more than that, it delves into the fathomless pith of the '60s – a generation whose dreamers indulged in ideals that seemed to turn the world, and their own lives, upside-down and inside-out.
THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS

He Will Rock You!
2ND 'ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE' DAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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EBERT & ROEPER AND THE MOVIES
"'A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare in Love'..."
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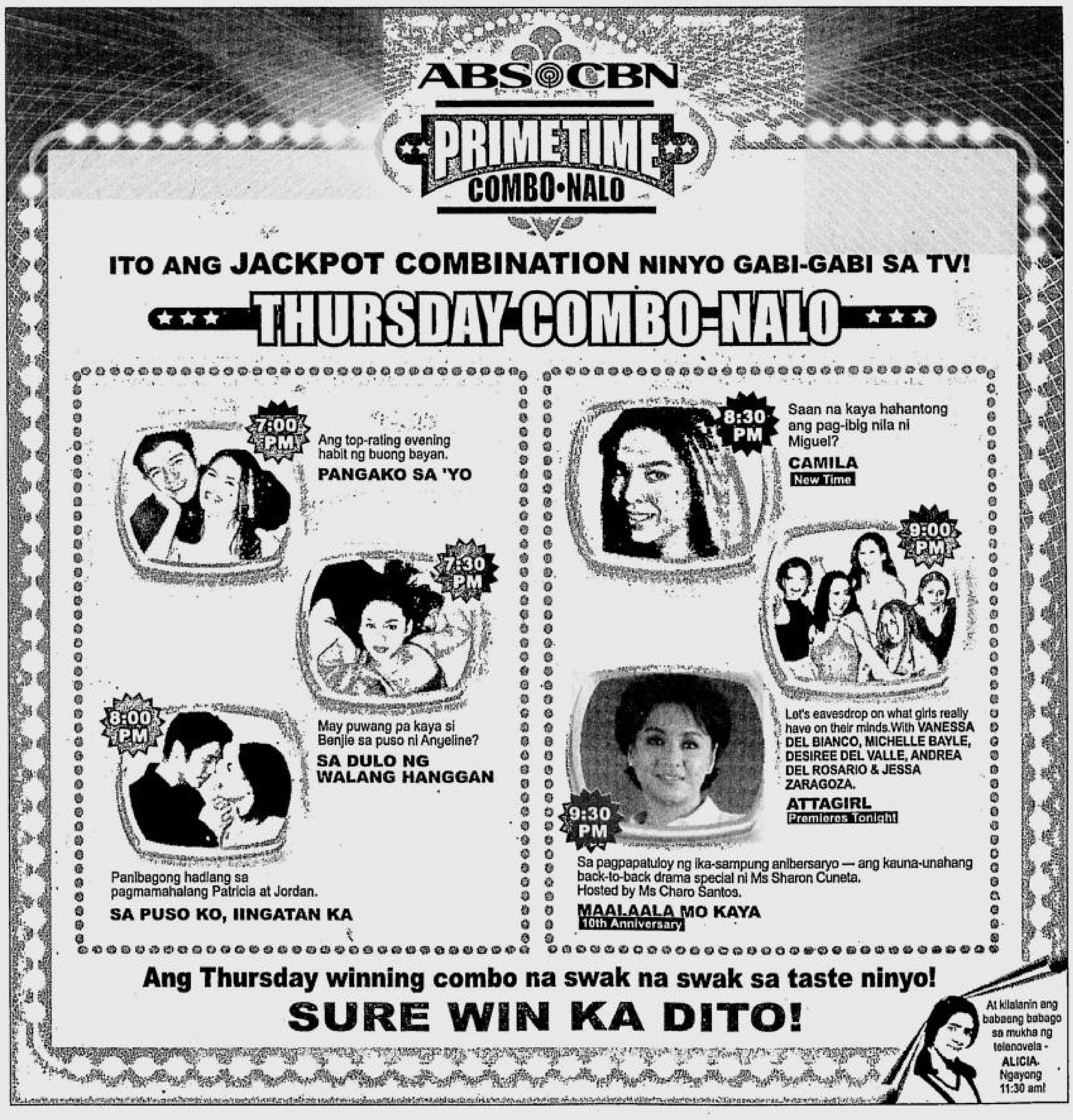
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
SCARY MOVIE 2 - R 18 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.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ITO ANG JACKPOT COMBINATION NINYO GABI-GABI SA TV!
THURSDAY COMBO-NALO
7:00 PM Ang top-rating evening habit ng buong bayan. PANGAKO SA 'YO
7:30 PM May puwang pa kaya si Benjie sa puso ni Angeline? SA DULO NG WALANG HANGGAN
8:00 PM Panibagong hadlang sa pagmamahalang Patricia at Jordan. SA PUSO KO, IINGATAN KA
8:30 PM Saan na kaya hahantong ang pag-ibig nila ni Miguel? CAMILA New Time
9:00 PM Let's eavesdrop on what girls really have on their minds. With VANESSA DEL BIANCO, MICHELLE BAYLE, DESIREE DEL VALLE, ANDREA DEL ROSARIO & JESSA ZARAGOZA. ATTAGIRL Premieres Tonight
9:30 PM Sa pagpapatuloy ng ika-sampung anibersaryo — ang kauna-unahang back-to-back drama special ni Ms Sharon Cuneta. Hosted by Ms Charo Santos. MAALAALA MO KAYA 10th Anniversary
Ang Thursday winning combo na swak na swak sa taste ninyo!
SURE WIN KA DITO!
At kilalanin ang babaeng babago sa mukha ng telenovela - ALICIA. Ngayong 11:30 am!

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THURSDAY,
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B1
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HONDA

RP, Asian stocks slump after US attacks

ASIAN stock markets plummeted from the first minute yesterday following the horrific attacks in the United States, which struck at the very heart of the world's supreme economy.

Huge falls were recorded in Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines, Sydney and New Zealand, wiping millions off regional share prices in one fell swoop.

Some anxious Asian stock exchanges took the decision to stay shut, hoping to wait out the shock waves striking the world's financial markets after suicide squads flying hijacked American planes reduced the World Trade Center in the financial district of New York to rubble on Tuesday.

Stocks bore the brunt of worries on the Philippine financial market yesterday over the economic impact of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The peso, meanwhile, was stronger against the dollar as the market tracked the firmer trend of regional currencies due to heavy global selling in the US unit.

Banks in Manila reported no disruptions in their foreign exchange transactions by early afternoon.

Echoing heavy falls in world equity markets, the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index closed down 52.70 points, or 4.1 percent, to 1,241.39 after breaching the psychologically important level of 1,250 in early transactions. The close brought the index to its lowest closing level since Oct. 7, 1998.

Astro del Castillo, research head of A&A Securities Inc., expects losses in Manila to be extended in the coming session, triggered by likely heavy losses on Wall Street.

Stockbrokers GK Goh recommended selling Philippine stocks sensitive to US market developments, such as Music Corp. and Ionics Inc., whose earnings are reliant on exports of their information technology products.

The peso was stronger against the dollar in line with gains in Asian currencies triggered by a heavy global selling in the dollar on expectations of massive falls in US stocks and a possible recession in the world's largest economy.

The dollar closed at P51.23, down from 51.30 on Tuesday.

The worst hit Asian market was Seoul, where the composite index plunged 11 percent or 60.15 points to 480.42 immediately after the market opened, prompting an obligatory 20-minute suspension of trading.

In Tokyo, share prices fell below the psychologically important 10,000-point mark for the first time in 17 years as investors fled the equities market in the aftermath of the attacks, dealers said.

"All the shares were sold down (in Tokyo) this morning. Only a few are being bought," said Nissan Securities equity chief Masaru Kazama.

"If all the shares fall to the stop-loss level it is estimated that the Nikkei would lose 824 points and it's possible it could go down to that level," Kazama said.

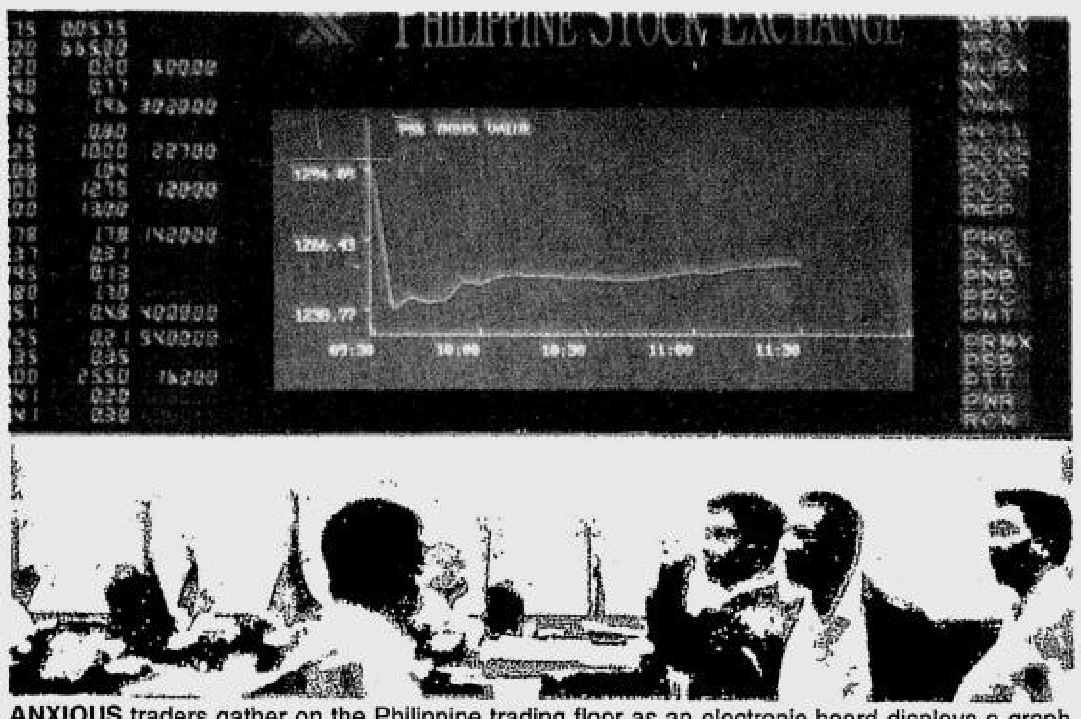
Share prices in Tokyo fell 5 percent yesterday morning to trade around 17-year lows, with the Nikkei-225 index down 519.24 points to 9,773.71.

To avoid confusion related to the multiple terrorist onslaught, the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) halved the day's daily limit on price movements of individual stocks and started at 9:30 a.m.—half-anhour later than usual.

"We urge investors to behave in a discreet manner and brokerage houses to operate in a discreet and appropriate way," said TSE president Masaaki Tsuchida in a statement.

"Given the unstable situation in the market, we also urge them to refrain from taking any action that may undermine credibility in the market, such as

RP/ B2

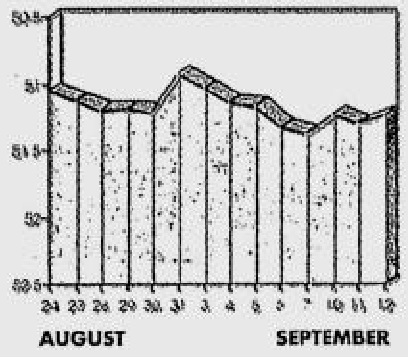


ANXIOUS traders gather on the Philippine trading floor as an electronic board displays a graph indicating sluggish trading Wednesday.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.23 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 12, 2001

¥119.38 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 119.38 as of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 12, 2001

GOLD:$280.00/283.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 12, 2001

Liquidity growth slows down

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that a marked slowdown in the growth of domestic liquidity to 11.9 percent in July from a 13-percent increase the previous month has improved the chances of a cut in either the overnight rates or banks reserve requirement in the coming weeks.

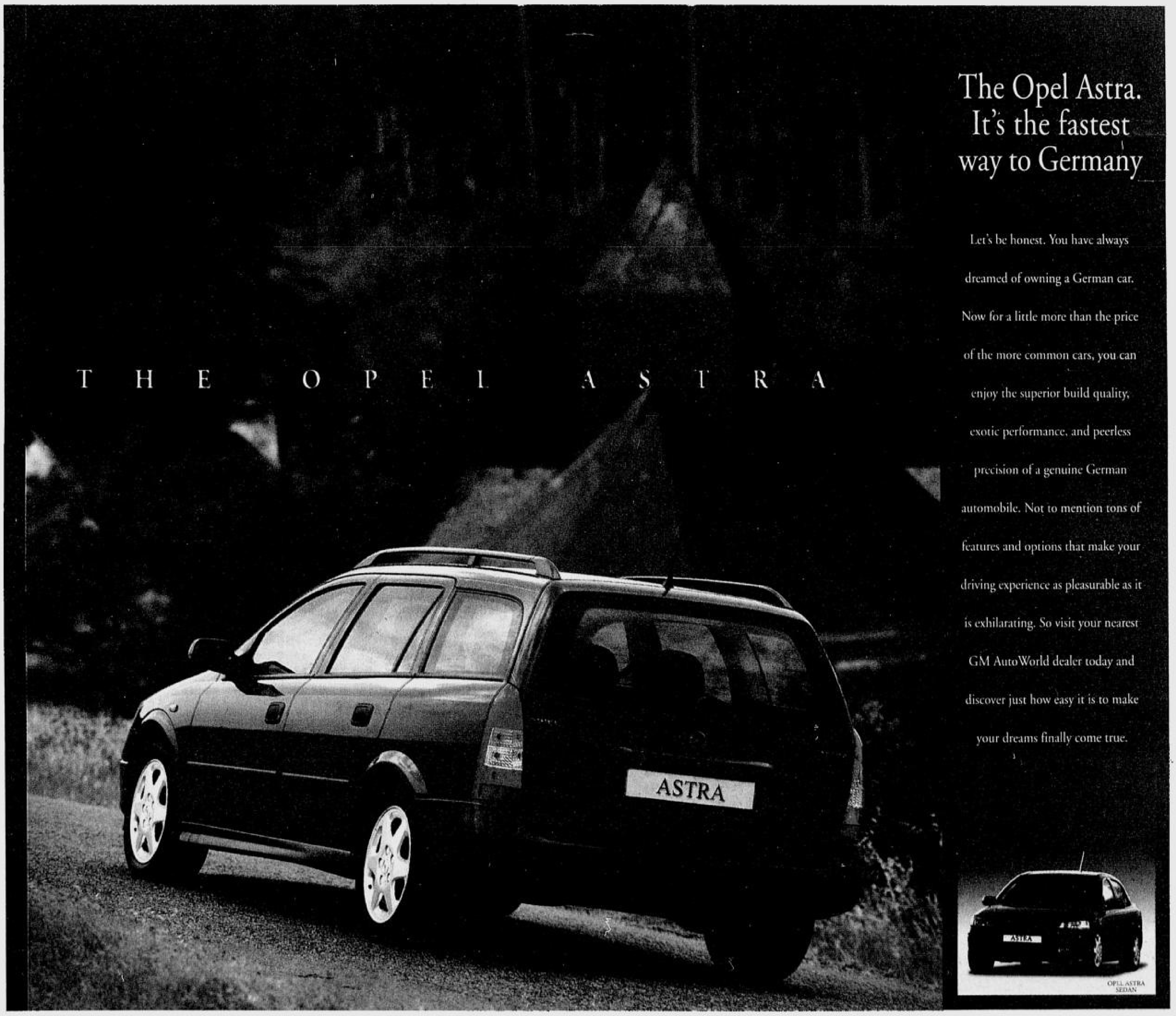
BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the decline in domestic liquidity would give the policy-making Monetary Board a greater flexibility to cut the bank reserve requirement from 20 percent.

Pagcor revenues hit P11.5B

PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. broke the P11-billion mark in total revenues in the first eight months of the year.

Pagcor chair Efraim C. Genuino said the state-gaming firm generated P11.54 billion from January to August this year. This was 21-percent higher than the P9.5 billion in gross income for the same period last year.

He noted that the corporation achieved four of the best monthly income records ever posted by Pagcor during the period. These were in April at P1.39 billion; June, P1.5 billion; July, P1.624 billion; and August, P1.618 billion.



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U.S. ATTACKS AFTERMATH

PLDT defers $250-M bond float

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. announced yesterday that it would postpone its $250-million bond flotation in light of the chaos that hit the United States Tuesday.

In a press statement, the telecom giant said it "will closely evaluate the restoration of normal market operations as events unfold." Until then, it said the notes issuance would be put on hold.

Analysts said the terrorist attacks in the United States would make investors think twice about investing.

"The investment climate will be subject to suspicion. It may take some time before these things stabilize and that will affect their flotation," Mark Securities research head Manuel Cruz said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said PLDT would wait for the current scenario to stabilize before offering the 10-year fixed rate notes.

Westlink Global Equities research head James Lago added that PLDT would "wait for things to settle down before they proceed with their flotation."

Lago said PLDT might wait until next year to float the bonds.

"They'll see first what kind of rates they'll be getting when this whole thing blows over. The situation now is very fluid. If things don't normalize within a month, they could push it back to next year," he said.

Cruz said this could hurt the telecom giant's debt situation.

"The bond float was supposed to temporarily save them from their maturing obligations. It was supposed to be their way out," he said.

However, Lago said PLDT was not really in a hurry to do the bond flotation.

"They don't really have to raise it overnight. What they're trying to do is enter the market at an optimum time. Everything changed overnight. They have to assess the situation first," he said.

"They're just managing their debt load and cash so they can retire obligations that are due and get more favorable terms," he said.

Lago also said the telecom firm could afford to push its flotation to next year.

Macondray Plastics raising capital to ₱400M

By Doris C. Dumlao

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. is seeking an increase in its capital base to P400 million from P100 million as part of its expansion plan.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MacPlas said the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved an increase in its authorized capital to P400 million divided into 400 million shares at a par value of P1 each.

The increase in capital stock is also in line with the Davao-based company's plan to shift to the PSE's main board.

The company successfully debuted last year on the PSE's second board, which requires only P100 million in capital and a one-year track record of profitability.

The first or main board, on the other hand, requires P400 million in authorized capital and a three-year profitability track record.

At the same time, MacPlas yesterday disclosed that its board of directors approved the declaration of a 155-percent stock dividend totaling 76.32 million common shares to be issued to stockholders as of Oct. 6.

Formerly known as Agro Plastics Inc., Macondray was incorporated in November 1990 by Pioneer Ventures Inc. to supply the banana companies under the Lapanday Group. It was later acquired by Macondray and Co. Inc.

The company produces polyethylene plastic blown film products and polyproplylene twine with its factories located in the province of Davao.

The company derives about 20 percent of its revenues in US dollars, although it is still highly dependent on two big customers—Lapanday and Oribanex.

The company has mapped out a three-year expansion program which was jumpstarted by the construction of a new factory intended to increase its capacity to produce blown film by about 40 percent or 900 metric tons a year.

U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE
United States of America
Department of Commerce

U.S. PAVILION AT FRANCHISE ASIA 2001

An exhibit of U.S. franchises will be presented at Franchise Asia on September 14 -16, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The U.S. Pavilion will showcase eight U.S. franchise concepts. Prior to the expo, one-on-one appointments are being arranged for the following companies that are looking for unit and master franchisees:

- CARL'S JR. (Unit)
- CHURCH'S CHICKEN (Master/Unit)
- LONG JOHN SILVER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT (Master)

Company executives of these firms will be at the U.S. Pavilion to receive expressions of interest and answer inquiries from prospective franchisees.

We are also presenting the concepts of the following U.S. franchises via a catalog show:

- CRESTCOM (management/sales training) (Master/Unit)
- FASTRACKIDS (child development/education system) (Master/Unit)
- JANI KING (commercial cleaning services) (Master)
- POSTNET (mail/package services) (Master/Area/Unit)
- MAILBOXES ETC. (mail/package services) (Unit)
- RAINSOFT (Water Treatment Systems)

Interested parties/prospective franchisees/investors are invited to visit the U.S. Pavilion at Franchise Asia. If you are interested in the above-listed companies and would like to meet with their representatives, please let us know so we can send you more information.

Your U.S. Commercial Service Contacts:

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Telephones: 888-4088; 888-6019; 888-6078 Fax: 888-0606

Another local broker suspending operations

By Elena R. Torrijos

BARELY two years after its entry into the local stock market, E Trade Securities Capital, formerly known as TIR Securities, last Tuesday informed the Securities and Exchange Commission that it was suspending its trading operations effective immediately or until the Philippine Stock Exchange has given the necessary clearance.

In a letter to the SEC, E Trade president David Heron did not give any explanation or reason for the closure.

E Trade's suspension will likely be ahead of DBS Securities, which has also said it would suspend trading effective at end of the month. Vickers Ballas Securities will be its successor broker.

E Trade and DBS Securities will be the 10th and 11th brokerage houses, respectively, to suspend their operations or close down due to merger this year. The others were Topwin Securities, Orion Squire Capital, UPCC Securities Corp., Nomura Securities, UOB Philippines, SEC2000, BNP Paribas, Merrill Lynch Securities, and Citicorp Securities.

Foreign brokerage houses pulling out of the country have blamed poor market conditions stemming from political and economic reasons for their decisions to suspend local operations.

Last year, nine brokerage houses stopped operations.

RP, Asian stocks . . .

(From page B1)

spreading rumors," he said.

Economic damage of the terrorist attack was certain to be felt in Asia and across the rest of the world, said Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa.

"This terrorist attack is terrible and intolerable. Each country should consider how to protect peace and prevent the recurrence of such a disaster," the minister told reporters at an impromptu briefing at the ministry.

"The world's leading economies need to cooperate to overcome the effects of the tragedy," he said.

[illegible] Manila, Mario Lamberte, president of the government think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said the US attacks would adversely affect both the country's financial and real sectors.

"We were about to be happy that the US economy is starting to bottom out and we were expecting that robust consumer spending would continue specially as we enter the Christmas season," Lamberte said.

"This will thus create a problem in the sense that it's a major commercial center that's been hit. I hope this will not deteriorate further and that the US can contain the damage," he said.

While Lamberte said the US would most likely respond by keeping interest rates low, he believed the local currency would succumb to heightened volatility in the next few days. He noted that the European Community had already responded by cutting interest rates.

Share prices in Singapore plummeted as investors dumped shares, dealers said.

The key Straits Times Index (STI) was down 6 percent or 94.13 points to 1,472.63 points at midday. At the start of trading at 9 a.m., the STI dived 136.64 points to 1,430.12.

Hong Kong share prices plunged 7.6 percent to below the key 10,000 mark in opening trade with the Hang Seng losing 790.00 points to 9,627.36, dealers said.

New Zealand share prices were also sharply lower at midday with the benchmark NZSE-40 Capital Index falling 83.87 points or 4.26 percent at 1,880.82 at midday.

Australian shares plunged almost 4 percent in one of the worst ever one-day falls on markets, brokers said.

By midday, the key all ordinaries index had fallen 119.7 points to 3,063.5 while the SP/ASX200 shed 114.6 to 3,127.4 points, echoing the declines in major markets around the world.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) decided to close for at least a day, in line with markets in Taiwan and Malaysia.

"We decided to close the SET for one day as we considered the events would impact negatively on all markets," said SET president Kittirat Na Ranong.

Oil prices surged in early Asian trading on concerns of mounting tension in the Middle East after deadly terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, dealers said in Singapore.

Brent crude oil for spot delivery was fetching between $30 and $31 a barrel, compared to around $24 before the attack, they said. *AP, AFP*

NOTICE

Please be advised of the change of corporate name of

PCIB CIGNA Life Insurance Corporation
to
Equitable PCI Life Insurance Corporation

as contained in the Amended Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws with SEC Registration No. AS 095-11178.

Equitable PCI LIFE

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, September 12, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	58	59	292,300
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	20,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	30.5	28.5	30	300,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	205	208	349,900
Philippine National Bank	50	53	50	53	769,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22	22	22	400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1100	1250	1100	1250	2,470
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	1000	950	990	4,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	44,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	615	645	615	640	900
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	2,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	410,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	505	492.5	497.5	166,520
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.027	60,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	169,900
Manila Electric Co. B	42.5	44	42.5	43	2,520,200
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.62	3,110,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.94	397,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	52,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	80,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.4	1.46	160,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	68,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	559,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	22,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25	26	25	26	52,800
RFM Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.2	530,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	40	38.5	39.5	237,500
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	55	54	54.5	456,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	3,668,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	715,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.82	770,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	187,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.23	780,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.4	5,656,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	430,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28.5	27	28.5	277,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.11	760,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Ionics Inc.	10	10	10	10	22,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	192,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.65	0.68	0.63	0.68	2,320,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.31	7,190,000
Music Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.98	527,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	31,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	5,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.29	0.21	0.29	160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.9	33,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	140,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	170,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	82,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	780,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30.5	29.5	30	134,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	17,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	82,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.7	11,249,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	1,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.28	8,190,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.25	2,730,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.92	1.86	1.9	3,218,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	540,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6	6	11,224,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	800,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	160,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	5,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.165	0.17	2,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.175	1,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	11,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.39	220,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,550,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,000,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	23,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	12,000,000

CURRENCIES

Sept. 12, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.092777	1.000000	51.2990
Japan	Yen	0.009172	0.008393	0.4306
United Kingdom	Pound	1.614796	1.477700	75.8045
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140280	0.128370	6.5853
Switzerland	Franc	0.666233	0.609670	31.2755
Canada	Dollar	0.698528	0.639223	32.7915
Singapore	Dollar	0.624551	0.571527	29.3188
Australia	Dollar	0.570105	0.521703	26.7628
Bahrain	Dinar	2.898766	2.652661	136.0789
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291383	0.266645	13.6786
Brunei	Dollar	0.622771	0.569898	29.2352
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024667	0.022573	1.1580
UAE	Dirham	0.297597	0.272331	13.9703
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000778	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.915100	46.9437
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.467883	24.0019
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139506	7.1565
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.415254	21.3021
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066503	3.4115
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022685	1.1637
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000473	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153909	7.8954
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004564	0.2341
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.0055	0.2821
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022685	1.1637
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.161937	59.6062

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom announced the resignation of Lee Shin Koi and Eward Ying as directors of the company. Elected to replace them were Axel Hass and Joachim Gronau. Also elected to fill the 15-member board were Romeo Bernardo, Guillermo Luchangco, Manuel Bengzon and Hubert Tubio.

* * *

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 36.36-percent decrease in the company's "B" shares, which fell from P0.022 to P0.014 per share.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. declared a 155-percent stock dividend to be issued to stockholders as of Oct 6, 2001.

* * *

ELECTED officers of Di[illegible] **Copper-Silver Mine** [illegible] zon Jr., [illegible] Gre[illegible] lzon, vice [illegible] Joel Matsu[illegible] [illegible] Teodoro [illegible] g Jr., [illegible] vice president; Frederick [illegible] and Francis Gustilo, corporate [illegible] *Compiled by Ma[illegible]*

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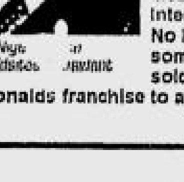
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Sunday, Sept 16 at 12:00 noon
Location: Hyatt Regency, 2702 Roxas Blvd. Pasay City P.O. Box 2462 Manila, Luzon Island
Tel: 63-2-8331234

Manila
Dates & Times:
Sun, Sept 16, at 7:00 p[illegible]
Mon, Sept 17, at 12:00 n[illegible]
Tues, Sept 18, at 1[illegible]
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[illegible] / philippines@worldsites.net

RP, Japan sign $3-B currency swap deal

By Stella O. Gonzales

TOKYO (via PLDT)—The Philippines now has a bigger buffer fund for short-term liquidity requirements.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Ministry of Finance of Japan announced here yesterday the signing of a $3-billion bilateral currency swap agreement that would give the BSP the flexibility to swap Philippine pesos for US dollars to meet liquidity requirements.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said during a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan that the Philippines was not likely to draw from the swap facility in the near future because the country has enough dollar reserves.

He said the agreement could be a forerunner of a payment system within the 10 member-nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plus Japan, China and South Korea.

Asked about the possibility of having an Asian currency, Buenaventura said it would likely take a long time, but this was something Asean nations were looking forward to.

"It took Europe 50 years to have one currency. If we could cut it to 20 years, that would be enough," he said.

The currency swap agreement is a component of the Chiang Mai Initiative, the Asean economic and financial cooperation agenda that calls for an Asean swap arrangement for all member-nations and a series of bilateral swap and repurchase agreement facilities among the Asean countries, China and South Korea.

The Chiang Mai Initiative was agreed upon to prevent another Asian financial crisis like the one in 1997.

Buenaventura and Secretaries Jose Isidro Camacho of finance and Manuel Roxas of trade met with Japanese government officials and key members of the Japanese financial and business community yesterday, the eve of a four-day official working visit to Japan by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President, who was scheduled to arrive here last night, will promote bilateral ties between Japan and the Philippines and explain to the Japanese the Philippine government's economic plan to achieve sustained growth and development.

GREEN

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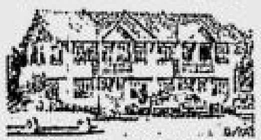

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of Remedios A. Abis has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 388; Page No. 78; Book No. 107; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of the City of Manila
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that
the estate of the late
• MANUEL U. LONTOC •
has been extrajudicially
settled by his heirs on
March 30, 2001 under
Doc. #10, Page #3, Book #1,
Series 2001 before Notary
Public Tristan R. Yu
of Makati City
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Certificates of SCHEMA Konsult, Inc. Nos: 12 (125 sh), 24(100 sh), 48(44 sh), 69(102sh) and 95(371 sh) all in the name of Emmanuel A. Vargas

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given to the public that stock certificate no. 228 of the Rural Bank of Pangil (Laguna), Inc. is declared lost.
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

PERSONAL

- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & Saint Jude
- Thank you Blessed Mother-V.M.B.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or fpalabrica@adb.org

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF IN-HOUSE MEDICAL AND/OR DENTAL SERVICES (ADB/OAS-2001/026)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of in-house medical and/or dental services. The Contractor, under the supervision of ADB's Medical Doctor, shall provide the following services: (a) operation and maintenance of a medical and/or dental clinic (ADB Medical Center) inside ADB's premises, (b) provision of covered medical and/or dental services to ADB staff, including home visitations, (c) promotion of health awareness through seminars, workshops, or lectures to be held once a month with prior approval of ADB's Medical Doctor and (d) quarterly distribution of newsletters on relevant health issues.
2. The application for prequalification may be made for the provision of either medical services only, dental services only, or both medical and dental services.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **17 to 21 September 2001**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Last day for submission of application for prequalification is **27 September 2001**.
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **22 to 26 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) payable in cash or check to ADB.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification without incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds for ADB's action.

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI -- Sept. 13 & 14, 2001)

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in Visayas

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Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos (035) 225-5796/225-4364
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c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
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Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
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Candelario Enterprise
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Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos (053)325-6743/321-2954
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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
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OMNI General Merchandise
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Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
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(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
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Telefax No (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
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Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos (064) 421-3284/421-6811/
(064) 229-7089 (Lolot - Secretary)
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Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
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Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
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Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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Cell. No (0919) 860-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marian's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973
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WANTS YOU!!!
FOR IMMIGRATION!
ATTENTION ALL!!!

MANAGERS & ADMINISTRATORS * REGISTERED NURSES * PHYSIOTHERAPISTS * RADIOGRAPHERS (MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC/SONOGRAPHERS) * WELDERS * METAL FABRICATORS/MACHINISTS * REFRIGERATION AND AIRCONDITIONING MECHANICS * BUILDING SURVEYORS * ENGINEERS * TEACHERS * SOCIAL WORKERS * MARKETING SPECIALISTS * COUNSELLORS * COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS / SCIENCE & INFO TECH GRADUATES particularly in the following fields of specialization: ORACLE * SQL SERVER * JAVA/JAVA SCRIPT * C++ * CISCO CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS (CCPs) * ADVANCED WEB DESIGN * E-COMMERCE * SAP * PEOPLE SOFT (ENTERPRISE BASED MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS) PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER * TECHNICAL WRITERS / TELEVISION JOURNALISTS CPA's * EDITORS * BUSINESSMEN

QUALIFICATIONS:
• BELOW 45 YEARS OF AGE • GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH •
• MINIMUM EXPERIENCE OF 1 YEAR •
PREFERABLY GRADUATES OF REPUTABLE UNIVERSITIES

FIND OUT THROUGH OUR ONE ON ONE ASSESSMENT IF YOU MEET THE CRITERIA FOR IMMIGRATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND SEMINAR DETAILS

MANILA
DATE : September 15, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 P.M.
VENUE : PHIL. TRADE TRAINING CENTER
Cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
TEL. NO. : 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN

LEGAZPI
DATE : September 18, 2001 (Tuesday) 3:00 P.M.
VENUE : HOTEL LA TRINIDAD, Rizal St., Legazpi City 4500
TEL. NO. : (052) 820-6168 // 480-3946 // 245-5641 // (0918) 910-2994
FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN

ASSESSMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY OUR
AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST
MR. MARK F. RILEY
Registered Migration Agent No. 9579222
- Former Senior Migration Officer of Australian Embassy in Manila
- 15 years in Australian Migration Practice
- Experienced New Zealand immigration specialist

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US @
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IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC.
Room 402-B Vicente Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Ave.,
Makati City Tel. Nos.: 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
ins@qinet.net * http://www.ins-global.com

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) invites all interested parties for the supply, delivery and warranty of the following items, to wit:

PRIORITY LOT	QTY.	ITEM DESCRIPTION/TECHNICAL SPECIFICIATIONS
A	5	Workstations
	60	Personal computers
	10	Dot-matrix printers
		Network Accessories (Hubs, Switches, UTP cable CAT 5 (in rolls) RJ-45 connectors)
B	1	Portable LCD Projector

For more information visit http://www.procurementservice.org and http://www.erb.gov.ph or look for Mr. Toto Arbalate at 631-7287 for the specifications of workstations, personal computers and networking accessories.

Interested parties may secure Eligibility statement forms and Request for Proposal (RFP) at the Supply Section, Administrative Division, ERC 14th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City starting on **September 17, 2001.**

The ERC will accept Eligibility statement forms and Bidding documents beginning **October 1, 2001** starting at 10:00 a.m. and bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. same day.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNIDO O. INUMERABLE**
Executive Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for ITR

(PDI - Sept. 13 & 14, 2001)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources of the **PCs for Public High Schools Project** (BAC-ITR for PCPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or OEM distributors to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package consisting of 20 PCs, 2 printers, 1 external CD ROM drive, and 1 external modem for each of the 231 public high schools in Visayas. The Project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of Special Concerns c/o Dir. Dita Maralit / Lydia Guevarra, at the 5/F, DTI Building, #361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) from **September 12** to **September 21, 2001. Submission of Qualification Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposal is on September 26, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 21, 2001**, Friday, 10:00 AM at the 40-Seater Conference Room, 4/F, BOI Building, #385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The BAC-ITR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **TOBY MELISSA MONSOD**
Chair, BAC-ITR for PCPS

(PDI – Sept. 12 & 13, 2001)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the Department of Trade and Industry published in this paper September 12, 2001 Re: Invitation to Qualify and Bid for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Package for the Public High Schools in Visayas, **Bid Documents may be obtained** from **September 12 to September 21, 2001** instead of September 12 to September 12, 2001 as published.

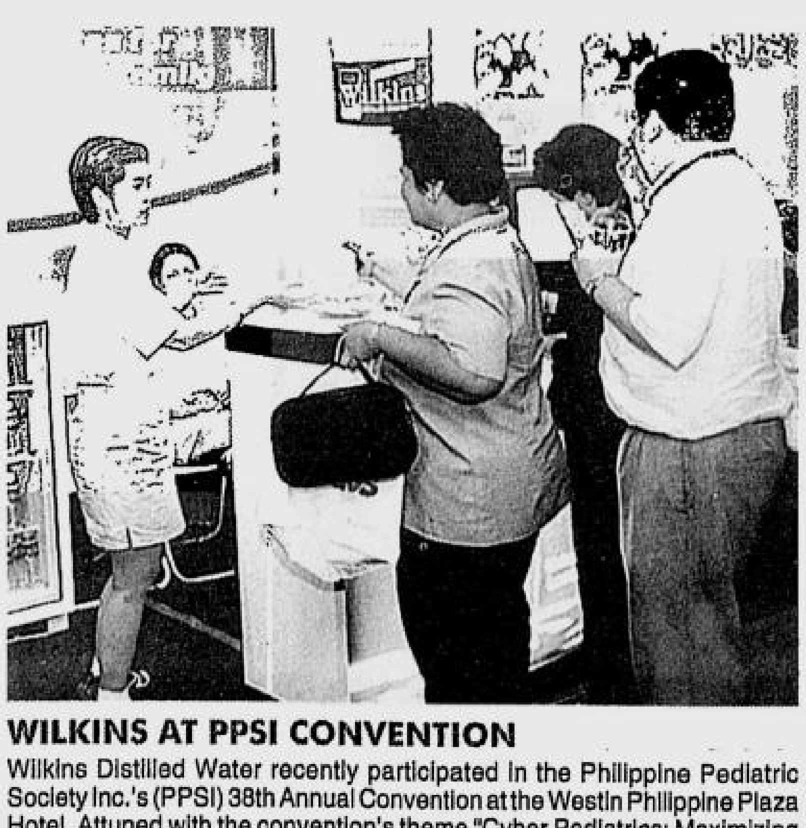
Our apologies

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA,
Assistant Editor

SWEDISH MATCH APPOINTS DISTRIBUTORS

Swedish Match Inc., makers of Macanudo Cigars, appointed Ott-Louie Philippines Inc. as its exclusive distributor in the Philippines. Shown during the contract signing were (from left) Swedish Match marketing manager for Asia Pacific Cergen D. Go and regional head for Asia Pierre Marmonier, Ott-Louie Philippines president Joost Pekelharing and general manager Elizabeth B. Flores.



WILKINS AT PPSI CONVENTION

Wilkins Distilled Water recently participated in the Philippine Pediatric Society Inc.'s (PPSI) 38th Annual Convention at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Attuned with the convention's theme "Cyber Pediatrics: Maximizing Access to Health Care," several discussions were conducted by guest speaker Dr. Benjamin Vitasa, professor and dean at the college of public health, University of the Philippines-Manila. Vitasa delved on the rampant water-borne diseases and emphasized on the importance of clean and safe drinking water especially to babies and children. This symposia likewise helped the public realize the advantages of distilled drinking water compared with other unsafe water resources in the market. Shown is the Wilkins booth frequently visited by pediatricians during the PPSI convention.

B!S Clips

Actron booth crowd-drawer

ACTRON Industries, a leader in the food technology and ingredient industry, was a crowd drawer during the Food Expo 2001 held recently at the World Trade Center. Actron's impressive booth featured top of the line products from A/S Nielsen Flavors, Corman Butter, Barry Callebaut Chocolates and D.D. Williamson caramel colors. This year, Actron also introduced a new division – WEV Creative, a creative agency for the food industry. For more information, call Wilbur S. Victoria, WEV information network (WIN) at 844-3041.

Sony at AV Surfer Alabang

AVAIL yourselves of special discounts on Sony Handycam repair and accessories at AV Surfer Alabang Town Center until Sept. 15. The offer coincides with the opening of the Sony Handycam Service Center at the same outlet recently. Special discounts of up to 20 percent can be enjoyed on Sony Handycam repair and accessories. For more information, visit AV Surfer at the third floor, new wing of the Alabang Town Center or call 807-2596 and 807-3541.

Biniray 2001 at the beach

ON Sept. 16, Bantoanons residing in Mega Manila will be celebrating their annual town fiesta in honor of St. Nicholas de Tolentino to be held at Villa Buenaflor Beach Resort, Halayhay, Tanza, Cavite. For those who would want to be with their loved ones and *barkadas*, air-conditioned buses will be provided at five designated pick-up points; Lawton, Manuela-Edsa, Zapote near UCPB, Sta. Rosa, Laguna near Walter Mart and Salawag, Cavite and will leave the place at exactly 6 a.m. Besides the traditional nine-day novena being sponsored by some of our *kasimanwas*, there will be lots of activities and surprises being lined up for this year's event, according to chair Willy Fabula. The theme of the celebration, "Debosyon Kay San Nicholas Waya Et Pagkupas", reflects the true spirit of unity and camaraderie among the Bantoanons. For particulars, call the chair at 414-3517 and the vice chair lawyer Lito Fabrero at 412-7837.

Student guidance fair

PROSPECTS in various career areas will be discussed during the 2001 Student Career Counselling and Guidance Fair to be held from Sept. 13 to 15 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City under the auspices of International Education Specialists (Inter-Ed 819-1001-02), the country's authority in world-class education. Billed as a "one-stop-shop" for the best education, training, career placement and employment here and abroad, the three-day exhibit will cater daily to more than 5,000 students who are expected to attend as organized field trips and participate in various activities lined up by Inter-Ed and its partner-institutions. Call Inter-Ed, 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City at 819-1001, 819-1002, 811-8368, fax 810-2825, cellphone 0917-203-2821 or e-mail intered@info.com.ph.

Marketing communications awards of Pana on 2nd run

THE SUCCESS of the PANA Marketing Communications Awards launched last year by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) as a highlight of its convention on the association theme, Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC), has inspired the sponsors to make it a yearly awards event.

Now on its second year, the Pana Marketing Communications Awards aims to recognize and reward excellence among competing student groups representing the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS)-Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Level 3 colleges, universities and state universities. Conducted initially in the National Capital Region, it is envisioned to eventually become a nationwide competition. The contest provides students of communications arts, marketing and advertising the opportunity to showcase their marketing skills, particularly in coming up with strategies that highlight the synergies of integrated marketing communications.

For more information, call the Pana secretariat at 899-5671 to 91 or 890-2989 and look for Susan Millapre.

300 concepts at WTC

WHAT started as a vision has now turned into a reaility.

What was a successful wave in the West is now on its way to the East through Asia, the world's largest continent and the most strategic entry point for Franchise opportunities.

The Philippines, a future "franchise hub" of Asia, will bring together over 300 franchise concepts from different parts of the globe to be showcased at the World Trade Center from Sept. 14 to 16. This momentous event shall open up many windows of future business opportunities and doors of networking prospects that every entrepreneur in this country should dare not miss.

This three-day Expo will not just be a one-stop-shop of the best franchises, ranging from big fast chains to Internet service providers, but will also link various franchise associations to accelerate the growth of franchising in this part of the world. It will also serve as an incubation center for small businesses that are potential franchises to shine and be introduced to Asia and the world.

The highlights of the Expo include an opening ceremony, special product launches, amazing virtual shows, healthy marketing competitions, "national days," company presentations and many more. All these are made extra special and exciting by Jollibee, Kraft, Casino Filipino, McDonald's and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Seminar on foreclosure

The Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a four-hour lecture on foreclosure—prevention and remedies on Sept. 15, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the 2nd Floor, Joni's Bakeshop, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Topics covered include: lender's view on foreclosure; why lenders do not want foreclosure; reasons for foreclosure; periods of foreclosure action; options of lender and borrower upon default; borrower's steps to prevent foreclosure; what to do when default is on the way; what to do when already in default; and what we can do before borrowing. For reservation or inquiry, call Urban Institute at 681-0928, and telefax 681-0953 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph

FILIPINO REPORT CARD

Wanted: New budget for fighting poverty

By Dennis M. Arroyo

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FILIPINO Report Card examined "Lingap para sa Mahihirap," the flagship poverty program of the Estrada administration. The idea was to help the 100 poorest families from each of the 78 provinces and 83 cities, or about 16,100 families. The program aimed to extend to them help in nutrition, livelihood and socialized housing.

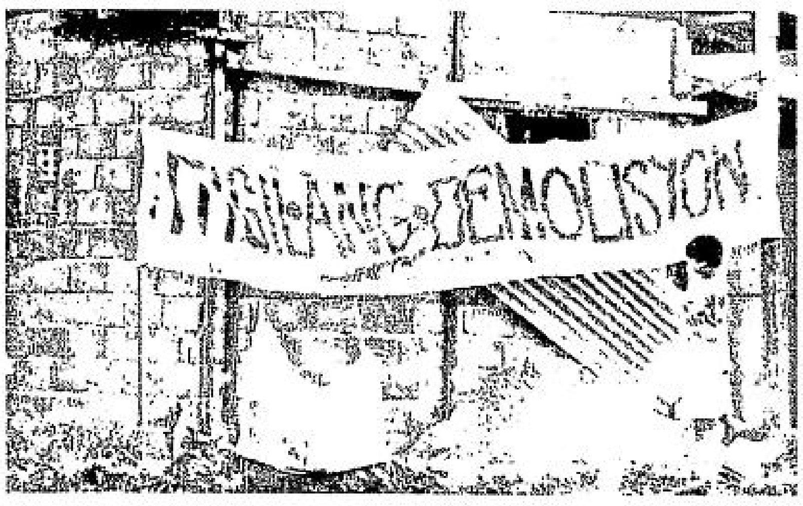
The problem with the program was that Congress controlled the purse strings. Around two-thirds of the funds were to be disbursed only with their approval. Lawmakers were also represented in program advisory boards. The program, therefore, was subject to political patronage.

As one workshop participant put it: "A new class of poor is emerging—the political poor—who are chosen by the political establishment."

The World Bank's survey found out that non-poor barangays benefited more from the Lingap program than the poor. Even as 16 percent of the poor said they were eligible for Lingap benefits, so did 16 percent of the middle-income group and 11 percent of the rich. The "eligible" non-poor were almost double the poor.

All told, political connections enabled the non-poor to get their hands on Lingap benefits. A fifth said they knew a congressman or senator who recommended their households for Lingap coverage. The "connection" ratios were higher for middle-income Filipinos—23 percent—and the rich—27 percent.

One clear lesson arises. When public money is not guarded, funds will not necessarily serve the poor. There is a need to push for pro-poor spending.


THE 'intended' beneficiary.

Budget advocacy needed

A policy is only as potent as the resources behind it. If no funds are reserved for it, a program is toothless.

Now, the national budget allocates resources among priorities. The budget process is no mere academic exercise—stakeholders maneuver to control these funds. Civil society should get involved in budget advocacy, making sure that public spending is pro-poor. This is a current concern of the World Bank.

The bank's term for this is "participatory public expenditure management." Civil society may participate in the four phases of budget formulation, budget analysis, expenditure tracking, and performance monitoring.

Civic groups intervene in the stage of crafting or formulating the budget. The resulting document is analyzed to see how well it attends to social concerns. Then civil society tracks the funds to see if the money on paper is indeed being spent on the committed programs. At the fourth stage, the people grade the final outputs, the performance of government agencies.

The Filipino Report Card fits in this fourth stage, monitoring services on the ground.

ARE they getting what they need?

Social surveillance

The entire report card highlights the value of social surveillance. It reveals conditions of blight and draws attention to the worst problems. It bares flaws in implementation. It tests if solutions are viable. It provokes political debate. All these lead to corrective action.

Perhaps some public agencies will be reluctant to have themselves graded by their very clients, the poor. That is why an independent monitoring effort is needed to get objective feedback.

The Filipino Report Card is already affecting policy. The recommendations are already being used by the Macapagal administration. Data from it has helped revise the Philippines Medium-Term Development Plan, create a new poverty alleviation strategy and craft poverty programs.

Other countries want to copy the Filipino Report Card. One World Bank-organized conference was the "Voices and Choices" workshop held in Washington D.C. on April 3 to 5.

The report card was presented in the meeting. Senior government representatives from 7 out of 12 developing countries expressed much interest in the research. They wanted to run their own versions of the Filipino Report Card.

Continue getting feedback

It is important to sustain the Filipino Report Card over time. A one-shot project will not do. The welfare and opinions of the poor must be monitored regularly, just as physicians monitor the body readings of their patients.

Fortunately, the government is now into performance-based budgeting. The Department of Budget and Management intends to track the performance of public agencies. The budget department will then use the information for allocating funds in the future.

Running the report card often will give the people a greater voice in public spending. Dynamite data will catch and amplify the cry of the poor.

SEC relaxes broker-director, tender offer rules

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday increased the threshold on the mandatory tender offer rule to 35 percent and suspended the broker-director rule for one year.

The SEC said it approved the twin measures to boost the stock market activities in the wake of poor global economic conditions.

The decision to suspend for one year the broker-dealer rule came after the SEC obtained a favorable opinion form the justice department. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code recognized the practical necessity of delegating to the SEC the power of making the implementing regulations and granting exemptions from some of the code's provisions.

Perez said Section 72 of the SRC, which grants the SEC the power to promulgate rules, prescribed different requirements and granted exemptions from "any or all (SRC) provisions," should be interpreted to include provisions that mandate or prohibit certain actions.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has been urging the SEC to relax the two provisions, in order to stimulate the local stock market, which has been seeing trading volumes shrinking to very low levels since last year.

In a special resolution issued yesterday, the SEC said the thresholds of 15 percent or more for a single acquisition or 30 percent for a one-year creeping acquisition of a publicly held company would be subject to the tender offer rule only if an acquisition amounted to 35 percent instead.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista earlier said that the increase of the tender offer trigger level would encourage more foreign investors, especially foreign fund managers, to invest in listed Philippine companies.

The SEC resolution also exempted all brokers or dealers from Section 30.1 or the so-called broker-director rule but required disclosure within five days of transactions that would have otherwise been prohibited.

The broker-dealer rule provides that no broker or dealer can trade its own account or the account of its customers, listed securities wherein any stockholder, director or associated person of the broker or dealer and any relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity was at the same time a director, officer or holding any position of trust and responsibility of the listed company.

The SEC stressed that the exemptions shall be effective for a period of one year unless extended by the commission.

BSP opens support facility for banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it would open starting today a liquidity facility for banks that might experience unusually heavy withdrawals in view of any unforeseen events that might arise from the panic caused by recent terrorist attacks on the United States.

This, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said in an interview, would be similar to the facility made available by the BSP during the transition to year 2000 amid the Y2K scare.

Reyes, who is BSP's officer-in-charge while BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura is in Japan, said the central bank also opened a similar facility late last year at the height of the "juetengate" scandal when some banks identified with former President Estrada experienced heavy withdrawals.

Reyes said the BSP was not expecting any particular bank to tap the facility immediately since there was still no evidence of panic in the local financial system. But the facility is being made immediately available to show that the BSP is ready to provide assistance to the market if necessary, he said.

"This is in light of the recent terrorist attacks on the US, which could impact on other financial markets around the globe, including ours," said Reyes.

Stock markets around the world plunged and oil prices soared, triggering fears of a global recession after three hijacked planes crashed into major US landmarks on Tuesday destroying the twin towers of the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon.

Reyes said the central bank reacted immediately to cushion the impact of the US incidents on the Philippine financial system. The BSP official noted, however, that there seemed to be no reason to panic.

The central bank said it decided to open the liquidity facility to assure the banking sector and the public that the BSP was on top of the situation.

He said that even during the Y2K scare or the juetengate scandal last year, very few banks had availed themselves of the BSP funds.

Reyes said the central bank was willing to extend any amount of assistance to the banks.

Banks that will avail themselves of the facility will have to pay the central bank 91-day Treasury bill rate plus one percentage point.

"The BSP is closely monitoring the development in the financial markets and is ready to adopt appropriate policy responses to maintain orderly market conditions," said Reyes in a statement.

IN NEXT 14 MONTHS

Cement imports seen eating up 50% of market

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. expects cement imports to gobble up more than half of the local market within the next 14 months following the imposition of a preliminary injunction barring the government from implementing the Safeguard Measures Act.

Philcemcor claimed that imports would easily jack up their market share from 22 percent at present to more than 50 percent by November next year due to the local industry's failure to get protection from the government through a 50-percent tariff and the imposition of import quota restrictions on cement.

Philcemcor claimed that imports have been able to amass nearly a quarter of the local market since 1999 due to dumping but consumers have hardly benefited from the surge because traders sell these imports at prices at par with local retail prices.

The group of 17 local cement manufacturers said it expected the bulk of the imports to come from Indonesia, which has been turning out excess capacity of 26 million bags yearly. This, according to Philcemcor, is 44 percent more than the capacity of the domestic industry.

Indonesia accounts for 53 percent of the country's total cement imports this year while Taiwan has seen its share shrink from 60 percent to 14 percent after Taiwan Cement Corp. stopped its shipments to the country and transferred control of its Manila silo to Apo Cement.

Philcemcor said the continued import surge would force local cement players to either close shop, scale down operations or merge their operations. It warned that the cement industry could end up being a minority player in a market dominated by imports.

Philcemcor said the Macapagal administration was duty-bound to seek the lifting of the Valenzuela regional trial court ruling because local industries would be sitting ducks in the deluge of cheap imports into the country.

The Department of Trade and Industry was forced to defer its decision on a petition by Philcemcor to impose 50-percent duty and quotas on cement imports under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act. The court issued a preliminary injunction barring the government from implementing the Safeguard Act because it was unconstitutional for mere Cabinet secretaries to set taxes or duties, a privilege explicitly reserved for the President.

GOINGS-ON

Negros group holds fair

THE 14th edition of the annual Negros Trade Fair is scheduled on Sept. 26 to Sept. 30 at the Megatrade Hall, Building B, 5th Floor of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila.

At least 61 producers are participating in the show which is organized by the Association of Negros Producers, the group that was started by concerned housewives who wanted alternative livelihood for farm workers at the height of the sugar crisis in Negros Occidental in the mid 1980s.

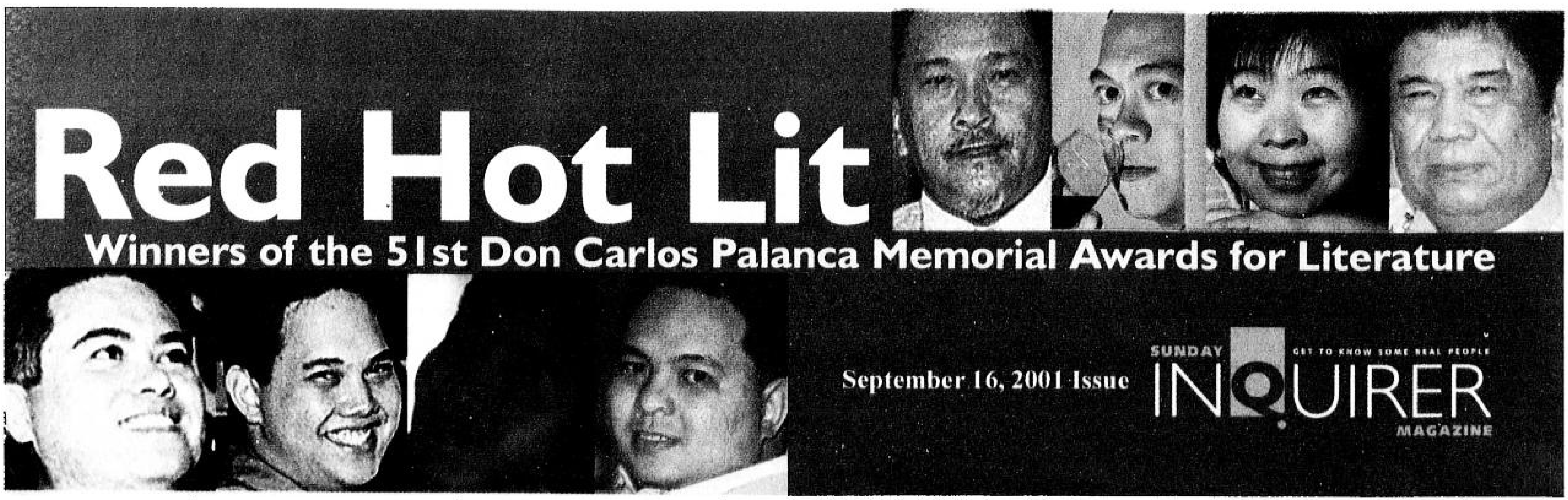
The trade fair will start with a Trade Buyers Time from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 26. It will open to the public at 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Regular market hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily from Sept. 30, ANP president Marivic Rio said.

Among the products to be displayed and retailed are pottery and ceramics, novelties, antiques, furniture, furnishings, fashion accessories, linens, garments, Negrease food specialties, basketry, laminations and the other items produced from native Negrease materials and skills.

PCCI, developers ink pact

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association to institutionalize the relationship between the two organizations.

The MOA will set the stage for two upcoming projects to be jointly undertaken by the PCCI and SHDA in line with the administrative goals as enumerated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address, as well as lay the foundation for cooperation in future projects.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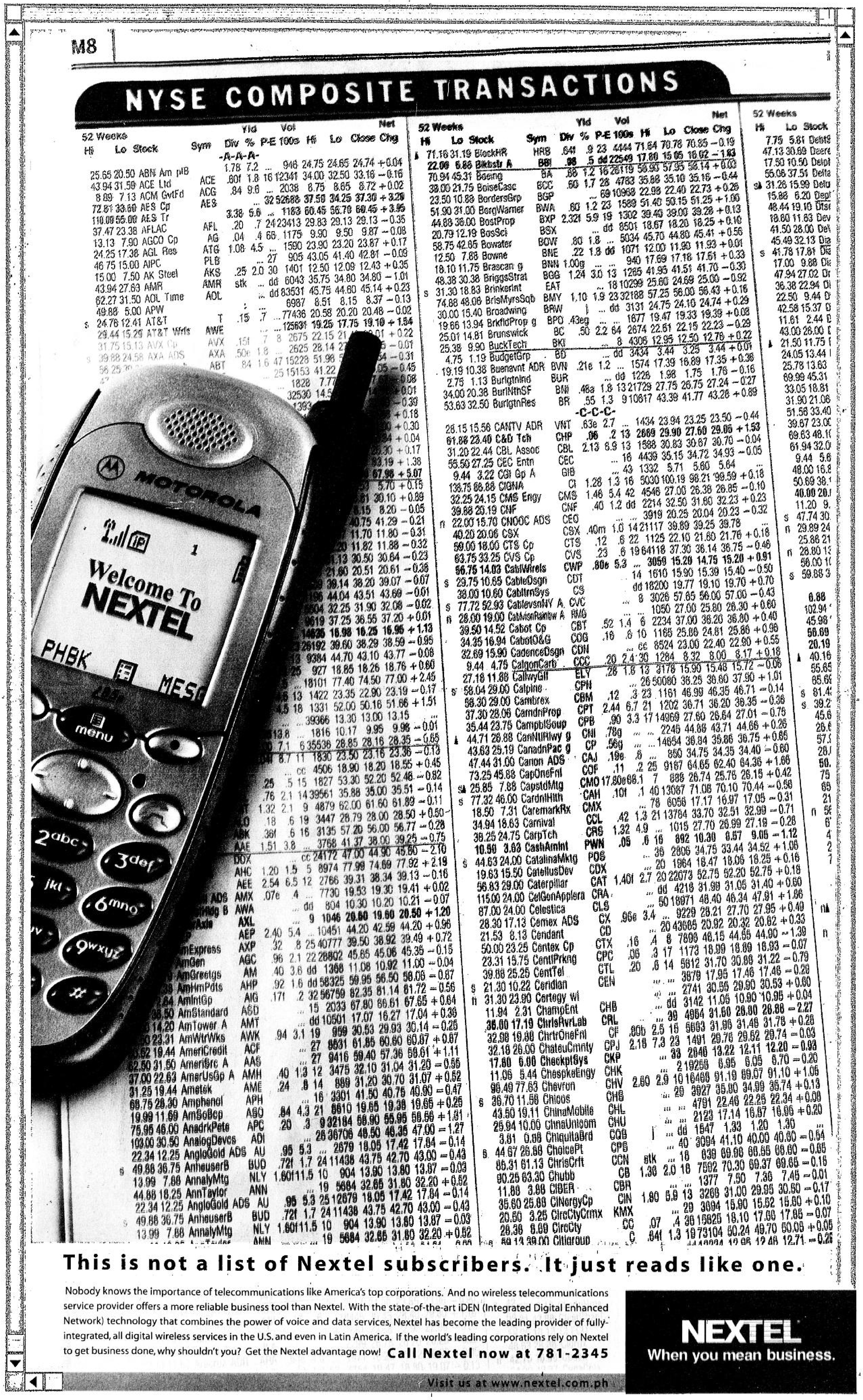

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DRA. GLORIA ZINGAPAN LASAM

(Former DECS Director Region 1 and Region 2)

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 72.

Her bereaved husband **Atty. Baldomero Lasam, Sr.** (†); children **Ephraim** and **Rose**, **Leonore** and **Teodoro**, **Angelo** and **Ester**, **Carmelo** and **Edith**, **Caroline** and **Noel**, **Baldomero Jr.** and **Emily**, **Terence Emmanuel**; grandchildren, brothers, in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at No. 54 Blumentritt Street, Tuguegarao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at Tuguegarao Catholic Cemetery after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral, Tuguegarao City.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

In Loving Memory
on the Second Death Anniversary of

CONCEPCION MAGSAYSAY LABRADOR

who died in the Grace of our Lord on September 13, 1999

the family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Mommy in their prayers.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

EVELYN "LEN" L. HERNANDEZ-BANDAY

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 09, 2001 at the age of 41.

Her loving husband, **Atty. Jose "Joey" T. Banday**, father, **Atty. B. Al. Hernandez**, mother (†) **Angelita Lapid Hernandez**; sisters and brother **Joyce**, **Ross** and **Rico**, **Carol** and **Eric**, **Ramon** and **Marites**; her nephews and nieces, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, grandmother, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in Chapel St. Claire, 3rd floor, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Holy Masses will be offered daily. Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Parañaque.

FLORENTINO V. TUASON, SR.

1917-2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 11, 2001

His loving wife **LILING**; children **ELSIE** and **LARRY**, **BOY** and **AGNES**; grandchildren **BELET** and **LLOYD** and **KATE**; brothers **RAMON, NESTOR, BERT**; sister **AGANG** (deceased); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at HOLY TRINITY Funeral Chapel, Sucat Road, (formerly Dr. A. Santos Avenue), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 9:00 AM Mass at the HOLY TRINITY Funeral Chapel.

The family of the late

DOMINGO M. LEAÑO

of Vintar, Ilocos Norte

Passed away on September 11, 2001 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Sinforosa** and children **Evelyn**, **Dolly**, **Odette**, **Edgar**, **Gogoy**, **Art**, **Alex** and **Roger** request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be interred at the Vintar Cemetery, Vintar, Ilocos Norte.

"From the darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of
Cordillera Savings Bank
(Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya)
mourn the demise of

Dr. Alfredo L. Aliasas

Board Director

His remains lie in state at his residence in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at the Solano Catholic Cemetery after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

Our beloved Inang and Lola

MANUELA "Inang Nene" PASCUAL PRINCIPE

of Licab and San Jose, Nueva Ecija and Laoag City

*Peacefully joined her Creator and husband **Nicodemus** on September 9, 2001 at the age of 83.*

She is survived by her daughter **Estelita** and son-in-law **Dr. Constante Caluya**, grandchildren **Amie & Nanie, Jun & Glory & Candy**, and grandchildren **Nicco & Jun-jun.**

Her body lies in state at the family residence at 29 P. Gomez Street, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Friday, September 14 at the Laoag Floral Garden after the 8:00 AM Mass at St. William's Cathedral.

"The golden moments in the stream of life rush
past us and we see nothing but sand:
The angels come visit us and we only know them
when they are gone."
George Eliot

Rogelio 'Jojo' M. Samonteza, Jr.

March 1, 1968 - September 13, 1993

We love you -
Daddy **ROGER**, Mommy **MILA**, sisters **ALMA**, **MYLA** and **MIHLGRACE**, brother-in-law **SAMMY**, nephews **JEROME**, **JASON**, niece **PAULINE** and friend **CHERRY**.

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Ford Trekker gets top score

BY RAYMOND TRIBDINO AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

"BUILT Tough" is one brand tagline that is hard to live up to. But Ford has succeeded making tangible this otherwise nebulous phrase throughout its vehicle lineup. The Ford Ranger Trekker is no exception. It may not provide the boldest statement, nor is it the biggest in terms of cubic centimeters. Neither is it the most beautiful of the pickups currently available. But it certainly is one of the best-engineered utility vehicles around.

Ford has outdone itself with the Ranger Trekker. Not only does it have a diesel engine that doesn't feel, and in most instances, sound like a diesel burner, it is also the fastest and most powerful utility vehicle of its size crafted by the Blue Oval's engineers.

Care to drag race?

Tessa: I could barely hear the typical "diesel noise" as I zoomed up a bridge at the Alabang exit.

Raymond: Right you are Tessa. I am willing to go head-to-head with a gasoline-powered sedan and not shame myself out of the stoplight. You get heaps of acceleration, a particularly high top-end speed and very little soot from the tailpipe even with heavy throttle stamping.

Ludi: It's like a carnival ride. When you push it, it goes. And fast. One moment you are chugging along the middle lane of the expressway, the next you are doing 100 kph on the fast lane. Remember that scene in "Star Wars" when Millennium Falcon goes into hyperspace? That is sort of how it feels.

Raymond: I love that part.

Tessa: Yeah. Except that in "Star Wars," Darth Vader didn't have a speed gun. Well, aside from its rapid zoom, the pull's noticeably Herculean. I feel I could tow a bus with this.

Raymond: When I got the Ranger I was fortunate enough to have met knee-deep flood at the San Lorenzo gate, corner of Pasay Road and Amorsolo. I just shifted into a lower gear and crossed the water obstacle with ease. Of course, I produced a wall of water similar to the parting of the Red Sea.

MOST powerful utility vehicle of its size

Sensible engineering

Raymond: There is a lot of sensible engineering all over the Trekker. First, it is a rear-wheel drive, fairly easy, and cheap to maintain. Next it stands high off the ground, like a 4x4. But without the extra bulk of the front-drive train, there is better power-to-weight distribution. Then it is a 5-speed manual. Although I enjoy driving the Frontier Automatic, the manual box gives me more control over the huge amount of power available.

Ludi: Is that why you get home faster?

Raymond: Errr…I try to keep within the speed limits.

Tessa: Huge amounts of power as in 117 PS and 280 Nm of torque. That's a lot of hill climbing power—even for a 4x2, no wonder. I felt like a pilot catapulting out of a mother ship in "Battlestar Galactica."

Raymond: Look around. There are other very sensibly engineered bits. Take the case of cargo bed rope rails and hooks. They may look ugly to some, but it is really a good idea to keep them exposed and handy like that. Makes it easier to lash down cargo snug into the pickup bed. Inside there are a lot of pockets, and trays that could work well as cupholders.

Doesn't ride like one

Ludi: It is amazing how the Ranger took the bumpy and bouncy center lane of the expressway. It wasn't bouncy or jolting. Surely doesn't ride like a pickup.

Raymond: That's the double-action shock absorbers, my love. It works like the door opener at home. In small bumps only a portion of the damper moves, cushioning the ride. When loaded, the shocks actually become stiffer, supporting the Trekker and the load without disturbing the passengers. It can go through relatively deep ruts with ease and provides an even ride all in almost all conditions.

Ludi: Is that why you get home faster?

Raymond: It does help in the handling department. Even with its 4x4 height, the Trekker handles well and very positively. It produces a lot of driver feedback making it easier to throw into the bends and corners. Naturally the 15-inch wheels and huge brakes help too.

Tessa: Hey, guys, I still feel a bit bumpy. I think we just ran over an open manhole.

Inside engineering

Tessa: The insides are bare essentials—drab, utilitarian.

Raymond: I agree. Though generic, it serves its purpose well. The seats are not cushy, and the radio works well. Headrests are adjustable and there are 3-point ELR seatbelts up front and out back. The rear seatbelts are definitely much better than the nonretracting type found in other pickups.

Tessa: If I were a six-footer, though, I would have had some difficulty getting inside.

Ludi: It's so bleak inside. All grays and blacks. I do like it without the wood paneling and things like that. What I really like is that it isn't noisy, and doesn't vibrate a lot. None of the clucking noise I hate in other diesels we've tried.

Tessa: They call it low NVH, Ludi. Or low Noise, Vibration, Harshness.

Ludi: You're beginning to sound like Raymond.

Another Ford gets a well-deserved **9 out of a total 10 points.** Big pluses for engine performance, handling and low NVH levels. Though styling is subjective, the Trekker received middle to low scores for 1) trying to ape the F-150; 2) for not doing it well. The really desirable thing for most Pinoys is the *porma* rather than the performance. We however, don't agree.

(Thanks to Ludi Tribdino, wife, mother of four and professional back-seat driver. She has kept Raymond safe and sane for the greater part of his life as a motoring journalist.)

Sport Truck
SEPTEMBER 26
MEGATRADE HALL

Custom Car & Sport Truck Show starts Sept. 26 at Megamall

THIS year will mark the beginning of the new Custom Car & Sport Truck Show.

The show will embark on the whole new direction by providing motorcar enthusiasts with a show that exclusively caters to customized automobile modifications.

Whether your passion is for the latest in high-performance engine and suspension upgrades, or you simply are looking for a truly awesome paint job, monster tires, body kits, earthshaking sound systems or the most advanced in-car video concepts, you will find them all at the Custom Car & Sport Truck Show 2001.

The motoring event will be held from Sept. 26 to 30 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Moreover, the show is all about competing for the best customized car and sport truck in the country.

The Custom Car & Sport Truck Show is also the ideal venue for endless alternatives in high-performance products, state-of-the-art technology and custom body styling kits. From mild to wild, the options are limitless—custom cars, race cars, show cars, sport trucks or giant monster race trucks.

The show is presented by Motolite with Shell Helix/Velocity as secondary presenter. Sponsors are Pioneer, BMB Karaoke Super Brand, 105.1 Crossover, 99.5 RT, 89.9 Magic, 103.5 K-Lite and Pharmaton.

Honda opens new car plant in Britain

LONDON—Japanese car manufacturer Honda officially opened Monday the first new car plant to be built in Britain for eight years, creating 1,000 new jobs.

The new facility near Swindon, west of London, will produce an extra 100,000 vehicles a year on top of the 150,000 already produced.

The plant—which is Honda's second on the site—has been operating for six months, but was only officially opened Monday.

The opening was marked by the arrival of Formula One drivers Jacques Villeneuve, Jean Alesi, Olivier Panis and Jarno Trulli in one of the new Civic models which will be made at the plant.

The drivers race with the Jordan and BAR teams, which are powered by Honda engines.

In his speech Honda president Hiroyuki Yoshino said the new plant would form a vital part of the company's worldwide network.

"The new plant is the first new greenfield manufacturing facility to be built in the UK for over eight years," he said.

"Swindon will become the only production facility in the world for the new Civic three door, exporting this car to Japan, USA and Canada." *AFP*

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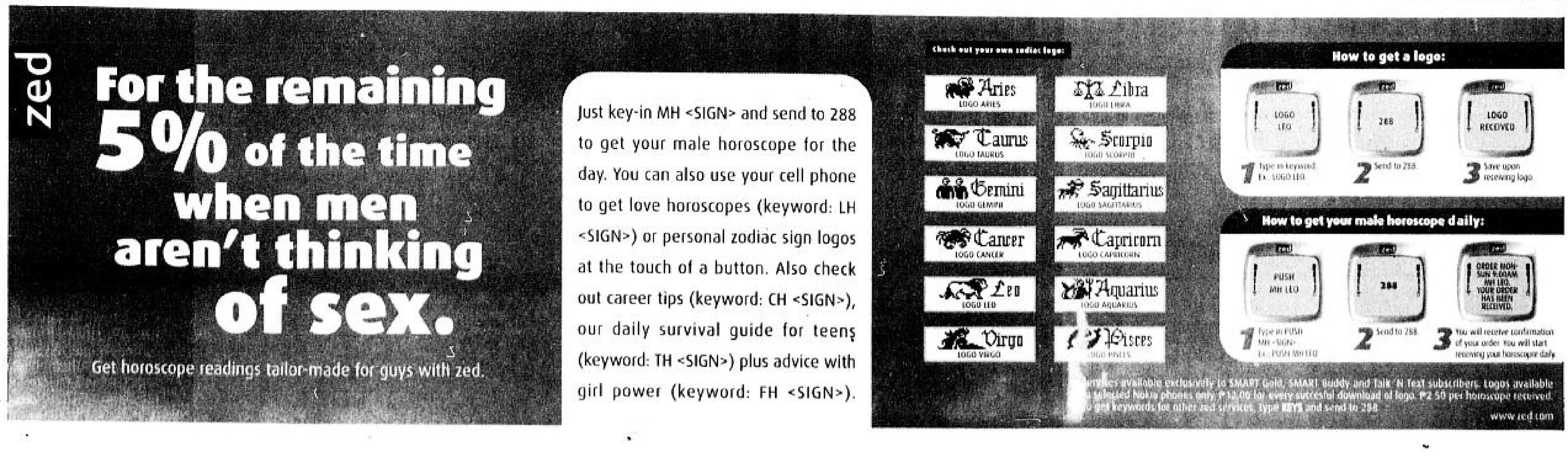

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Firestone says Wilderness AT tires safe, still pushes for Explorer exam

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. has reaffirmed the safety of its Wilderness AT tires, informing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the facts and the data do not support an agency action that could result in an expanded recall of any Wilderness AT tires, including those equipped primarily on Ford Explorers.

"We will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of the driving public. If one of our tires might jeopardize that safety, then we'll take it off the road. We've done it before and, if it becomes necessary, we'll do it again. But, that is simply not the case here," said John Lampe, chair, CEO and president of Bridgestone/Firestone.

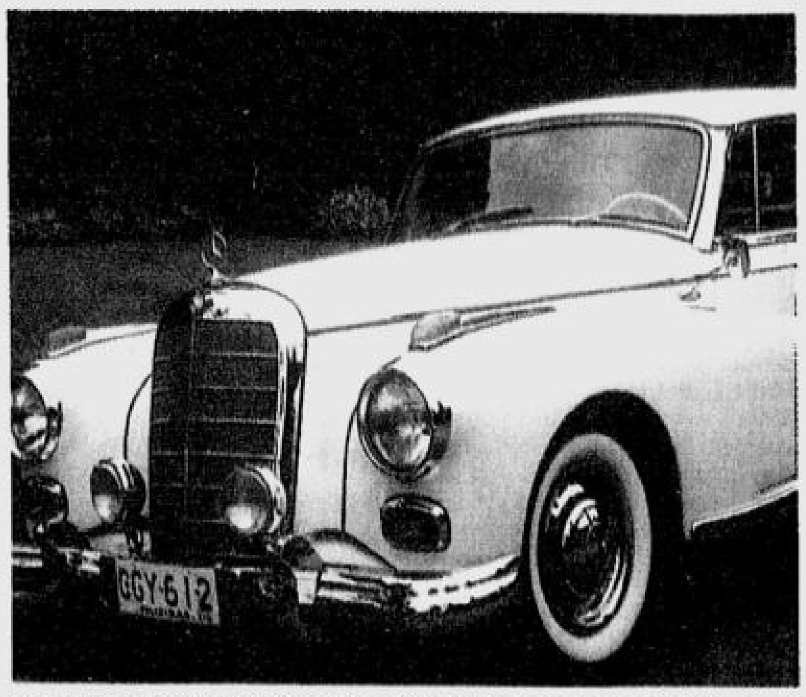
To date, the NHTSA has failed to make its analysis available to BFS for the company to review in any meaningful way. BFS's own extensive examination and evaluation of its tires, competitor tires and the Ford Explorer clearly show that the Wilderness AT tires are safe and that further action against the tires is unnecessary and counterproductive. As this matter moves forward, the company will use every available step in the process to prove the safety of its tires, including public hearings, and if necessary pursuing this issue in the courts.

"We appreciate NHTSA's diligence on this issue, but we strongly disagree with any suggestion that a recall action might be warranted and believe any such action could have potentially serious consequences for the driving public and the entire tire industry," said Lampe, referring to the testing that shows the Firestone tires perform well within industry levels on all tests. "This much is clear. Our tires are safe. And, we will use every opportunity available to us to make that point."

"If the real issue at hand is the safety of the driving public—and we believe it is—then taking more of our tires off the road is not the solution. It doesn't solve the real problem: the vehicle," Lampe added. "We now know this to be a fact: you can take every Firestone tire off every Explorer and the rollovers and fatal accidents will continue. We've seen it in Venezuela, and we are now seeing it in the US."

Among the points the company cites in support of its position:

- **Wilderness ATs are comparable to competitors' tires.** Exhaustive tests show that across the board, Firestone tires perform the same as, if not better than, similar competitor tires that are currently being fitted to Ford vehicles, including Explorers. The tests conducted include peel force, belt edge temperature tests, SAE high speed testing and holography/shearography.
- **Wilderness AT tires have extremely low claims rates.** A tire's performance and safety must be judged by a number of factors. Claims rates alone are not an accurate measure of a tire's performance. However, even if claims rates were to be used as a determinative factor, the claims history of Wilderness ATs shows that the tires are performing well in the field.
- **A tread separation is not always a tire defect.** Rather, tread separations can result from a number of different causal factors related to tire use. All tires, no matter what brand of manufacture can experience tread separations, and some will. This can happen whether as a result of low inflation, improper repair, a road hazard that causes a slow leak, an impact break or a similar incident. It is one of the most common failure modes for any steel belted radial tire, regardless of brand.
- **The vehicle must also be investigated.** The very same Wilderness AT tire performs very differently on the Ford Explorer than it does on the Ford Ranger. At the same time similar Wilderness AT tires mounted on non-Ford vehicles perform at virtually flawless levels. In addition, published reports show that tread separations leading to rollovers and other accidents continue, no matter what brand tire is fitted on the vehicle. A report issued by Dr. Dennis Guenther suggests certain models of the Ford Explorer are plagued by significant safety problems because of inherent flaws in its design.



THIS is the 1959 Mercedes-Benz 300 D. Adenauer owned by Rockwell Club member Melissa Chua.

Benz Block Party at Rockwell Club

TWO of the top names in luxury, Mercedes-Benz and The Rockwell Club, are inviting motoring enthusiasts to the Benz Block Party on Sept. 22, from 3 p.m. to midnight at the Rockwell Club Car Park in front of Power Plant Mall, facing J. P. Rizal. Admission is free.

The Benz Block Party is hosted by the Commercial Auto Sales & Service Corp. (Casscor), the official dealer of Mercedes-Benz cars and Siemens Mobile Phones. Casscor will display brand-new Mercedes-Benz cars and vans such as the VITO Van 110 CDI, S-500 and S-600.

This special Benz event begins with a select motorcade roundtrip from the Rockwell Center to Ayala Avenue in the afternoon. The Rockwell Club Benz Enthusiasts and Mercedes-Benz Club of the Philippines will be participating in the Benz Car Show, which will be open for public viewing until midnight. Casscor is also providing free waxing for participating exhibitors.

To be handed out are awards for the Oldest Car, Rockwell's Choice, Modern Class, Pre '75 Class, Car of the Night and for other special categories.

There will be a Swap Board where Benz enthusiasts can post ads of Benz parts, accessories or even cars that are for sale or for swapping. Guest speakers from Casscor and the Mercedes-Benz Club of the Philippines will also hold a Benz Workshop, where one can learn facts on different models, maintenance tips, car-care basics and others.

The Benz Block Party heats up in the evening when The Curb, Rockwell Club's street bar opens at the parking lot for food and drinks and partying.

For more inquiries, please call up The Rockwell Club at 897-8310.

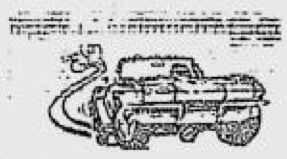
WHEELERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Vito L 110 CDI

STATE OF THE ART TOW TRUCKS

Wheelers Club International recently acquired four new trucks to beef up its already touted lineup of high-tech and state-of-the-art custom designed tow trucks to meet the needs of its ever-growing active members now numbering more than 50,000.

Malaysia has grown by leaps and bounds

FULL TANK



Al S. Mendoza

BEEN in and out of Kuala Lumpur for the last several years. In 1993, I was at the Malaysian capital to cover the Nomura Cup in the company of Rod Feliciano, Benny Gopez and Jake Ayson. The Nomura Cup is Asia's Olympics of golf. Back then, we all agreed that Kuala Lumpur was just like Manila. Not moving that much—politically and economically.

We were wrong.

That year, Malaysia was building Petronas. Upon its completion, the Petronas, perhaps because it's supposed to be the world's tallest building and one of Asia's wonders, seemed to trigger the country's inexorable march to economic recovery. Perhaps because the Petronas is taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower or New York's Empire Estate Building, it symbolizes Malaysia's emergence as a new power not only in the region but also in the world as well. Look, the ringgit, Malaysia's currrency, can match up to the US dollar as $1 is equivalent to a little over 3 ringgits! And to think that $1 is equal to 50+ pesos.

I also discovered that the country then was on a 10-year mission to rebuild its economy, starting with a massive infrastructure program that included apportioning a vast track of land where all the government offices and buildings would be built. The transfer from the metropolis to these offices found at the outskirts of the city would take 10 years to complete.

How amazing, indeed. That's what you call programming things the right way. Vision, fellas.

* * *

I saw for the first time the full splendor of Petronas last year, when Caltex hosted me to cover the Formula One, the world's No. 1 motor sport. It is so magnificent an edifice that at night, the Petronas is like an enormous piece of sparkling diamond, protruding in the skyline like a rocket ship about to orbit the earth, what with all its exploding lights alit. Next time I saw it was in the film "Entrapment" starring Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Venue of the Formula One of course was the Sepang International Speedway, the world's most modern Formula One track.

Last March, I was back at the Malaysian capital, again to cover the Formula One and see for the second time how Michael Schumacher beat the field in the world's most dangerous motor sport. Honda's Arnel Doria and TinTin Reyes gave me a thrill I would never forget—like allowing me to do a couple of songs by The Beatles during the farewell dinner for the Honda entourage. My, my, did I break a vocal chord trying to reach the highest note of *A Hard Day's Night?* Toyota's Ariel de Jesus kept teasing me about it when I got back to Manila.

To top it all, I won some money on bets on who would be the best finisher among Honda's drivers in Kuala Lumpur. The pot was more than enough to buy me some *pasalubong* at the night market.

* * *

What is really amazing about Kuala Lumpur today, not to mention its chief dollar earner African palm trees, is the infrastructure it has done plus those earth-moving going on all around.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will immediately notice the enormous improvements—a world-class airport with trains within the terminals and a state-of-the-art complex that can beat even the most modern airports in Europe. Hong Kong's new airport is ahead only by a slim margin.

The expressway from the airport to the city is a wonder as the six-lane highway makes travel a breeze. From the airport to the city is like from Angeles City to Manila (about 40, 50 km?). But over in KL, travel time will not take more than 30 minutes. The use of the fast lane is strictly observed, with vehicles using it traveling an average speed of 120 kph. The highway is well-paved and almost silk smooth, with not even a minor thud marring one's trip.

Perhaps, our government engineers should learn a lesson or two on how to pave Metro Manila's main arteries like Edsa, Commonwealth and Quezon Boulevard. Same goes with both the North and South Expressways. Uh-waa! The North Luzon Expressway alone seems

* * *

Malaysia is currently showcasing its progress and gigantic leap forward as it is hosting the 21st Southeast Asian Games Sept. 8-17. Some 5,000 officials and athletes from 10 nations are in attendance in the regional conclave and everybody is awestruck at the advancement the country has achieved—and continue to achieve. The country's main stadium can compare with the world's best, including that of Sydney's Olympic Stadium that hosted the 2000 Olympiad.

Kuala Lumpur's train/railway system alone can compare with America and Europe's. In fact, its subway is much better than that of New York's. Clean, air-conditioned, customer-friendly as no nut-case can commit suicide by plunging himself in front of the train: the tracks are protected by walls.

Underneath the city is a subway system complete with sprawling malls, brand-name shops and all and groceries. Filipino athletes and officials seeing it for the first time keep asking: When will this ever happen in our country?

It's really up to our leaders. As I keep saying, if they have the political will, they can do it. If Malaysia, with a population of 22 million compared to our 78 million, can do it, so can we. If our leaders take the lead as they should, we can only follow.

We're so behind already that it's time for us to do some butt-moving.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Malaysia's first invented car, the Proton, is the nation's No. 1 seller because the government is its No. 1 salesman.

WITH ZIEBART Diamond Gloss, even brand-new car paint gets noticeably shinier and smoother.

New paint protection polish now available

A NEW paint protection polish, claimed to have stronger, guaranteed protection while it gives "the brightest, smoothest, longest shine ever," is now available at CarSavers.

Developed by Ziebart TidyCar, "Diamond Gloss" uses a polymer-resin-based material used in the aerospace industry to protect aircraft body paint from jet exhaust heat, windblown particles, UV rays and harsh weather extremes and conditions.

The result is a hard protective barrier that shields vehicle paint from the damaging effects of extreme sunlight, oxidation, acid rain, and severe environmental conditions, and protects against water spotting, damage from road salts, mud and asphalt, bird droppings, bug splatters, tree saps and even gasoline stains.

Billed as "the next generation" in paint protection polishes that is superior and unlike anything in the market today, in terms of gloss, protection and hardness, it claims that it can make even brand-new cars still "shinier than showroom-new." The apparent difference in gloss and smoothness, on even brand-new cars, is said to be tangible and immediately appreciable.

Ziebart TidyCar guarantees the paint of a vehicle treated with Diamond Gloss against damage from almost all environmental causes. With periodic annual maintenance, the paint is guaranteed to retain its gloss for the life of the vehicle or for as long as it is owned by the original owner. When the annual maintenance requirements are observed, the lifetime guarantee is even transferable to subsequent owners.

For more information, call up CarSavers at 889-4144, or in Cebu, at 232-371, or visit its website at www.carsavers.com.

Tips for driving during rainy days

FOR THE PAST and still coming weeks, we'll have our own share of wet weather. That means driving in Metro Manila's already tricky roads becomes even more difficult and dangerous than usual.

The same season can bring out the best among motorists when their driving skills are tested by difficult driving conditions. And to help them get through this ordeal, Prestone B/F and Longlife Coolant has the following tips for this rainy season:

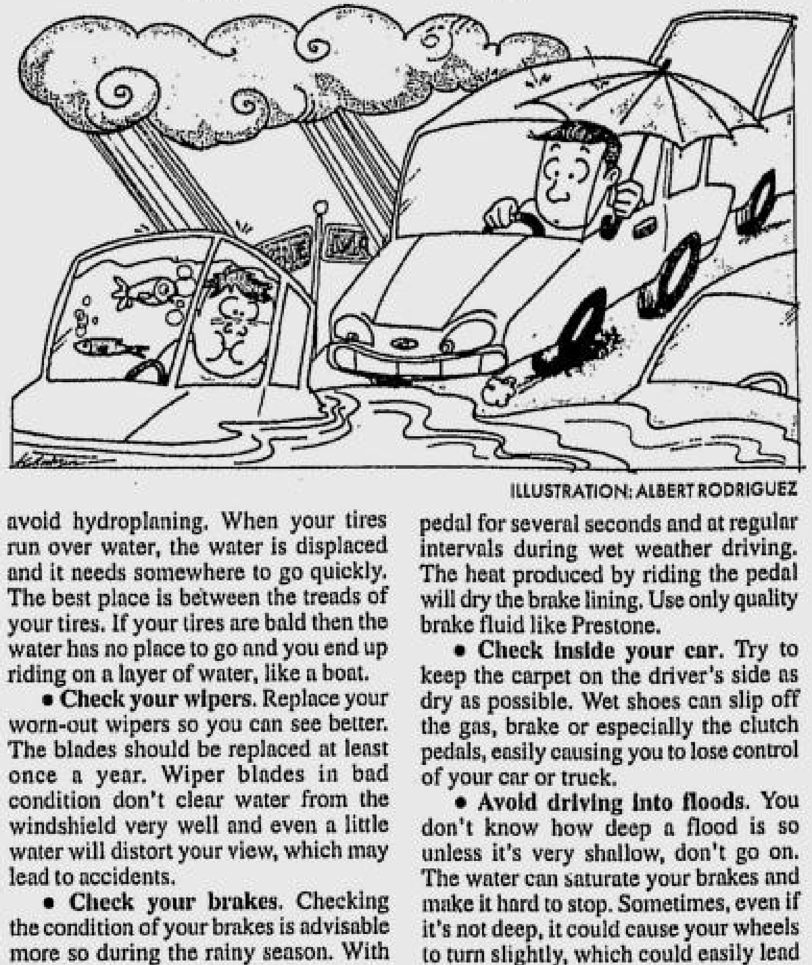


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

- **Slow down and stop tailgating.** People are so used to driving certain speeds on certain roads that sometimes they forget the need to slow down. When rains come, the stopping ability of any vehicle is reduced on slick pavement, so whenever you're driving on wet road surfaces, reduce speed accordingly.
- **Leave lots of space between you and the car in front.** The wet roads mean it takes longer for a vehicle to stop, so allow at least 50 percent more following distance behind the car in front of you. During dry weather, you usually leave a few seconds between you and the car in front, but in wet weather, make sure you add space because if you have to hit the brakes hard enough, your tires will lock up, you will hydroplane and you will most likely hit the car in front of you.
- **Check your tires.** Check the condition of your tires before and during—not after the rainy season. Badly worn or balding tires, during light drizzles, can cause you to lose control of your vehicle, especially heavier ones like SUVs. If they were already bald, it would be better to replace them with new ones because you need traction to avoid hydroplaning. When your tires run over water, the water is displaced and it needs somewhere to go quickly. The best place is between the treads of your tires. If your tires are bald then the water has no place to go and you end up riding on a layer of water, like a boat.
- **Check your wipers.** Replace your worn-out wipers so you can see better. The blades should be replaced at least once a year. Wiper blades in bad condition don't clear water from the windshield very well and even a little water will distort your view, which may lead to accidents.
- **Check your brakes.** Checking the condition of your brakes is advisable more so during the rainy season. With good tires and brakes you can greatly reduce the chances of an accident no matter how wet the roads. In wet weather, brakes get damp and lose their effectiveness. Keep them dry and ready for instant use by lightly riding the brake pedal for several seconds and at regular intervals during wet weather driving. The heat produced by riding the pedal will dry the brake lining. Use only quality brake fluid like Prestone.
- **Check inside your car.** Try to keep the carpet on the driver's side as dry as possible. Wet shoes can slip off the gas, brake or especially the clutch pedals, easily causing you to lose control of your car or truck.
- **Avoid driving into floods.** You don't know how deep a flood is so unless it's very shallow, don't go on. The water can saturate your brakes and make it hard to stop. Sometimes, even if it's not deep, it could cause your wheels to turn slightly, which could easily lead to a spin at higher speeds. Hydroplaning occurs when standing water on a road surface is deeper than the tread depth of your tires, causing the tires to lose contact with the road. If this happens, do not apply the brakes. Ease back on the accelerator until contact between the tires and the road surface is restored. Hard braking can cause the loss of vehicle control.
- **Turn on your headlights so people can see you.** During a downpour, turn on your headlights. You may be able to see cars without their headlights on but others may not have vision or windshield wipers as good as yours.
- **Pull off the road as far as possible if you have a breakdown.** Warn approaching vehicles at once by setting up flares or, in the case of rainy weather, reflecting triangles both near your vehicle and 100 feet behind it. On a two-lane road, place the same markers 100 feet ahead of your car. Get passengers out of and away from your vehicle.
- **Adjust your schedule and plan your trip.** Leave even earlier to wherever you need to go due to the traffic. The rain and the traffic are inseparable. When traveling long distances, allow time for frequent breaks for rest, snacks and exercise.
- **Drive defensively and stay alert.** A driver may be in trouble if you notice that his/her car is weaving through lanes, making wide turns, stopping abruptly, or responding slowly to traffic signals. Remember, on slippery, rainy roads, even the slightest mistake the other driver makes can become disastrous for you and your family in a shorter time frame due to the slippery surface. Stay calm and focused on safe driving rules and techniques.
- **Never drink and drive.** Alcohol is the culprit in nearly half of all fatal vehicle crashes. The deadly combination of drinking alcohol and rainy weather

Driving with disabilities

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ARNOLD Gomez (not his real name), formerly of Los Baños, nearly went deaf and lost his right hand in a freak firecracker-related accident on New Year's Eve nearly decade ago. After nearly a year of therapy he was able to drive again, but had to switch from his trusty Lancer to a Sentra Automatic. His license is stamped with restriction 1 and condition B. Still he is able to drive almost daily to Lucena City, and when required, travels through traffic-clogged Metro Manila.

He is but one of the hundreds of the drivers with disabilities permitted to drive under certain conditions. His is one of the simpler cases. His partial hearing loss was not an issue but his right hand had to be amputated making driving a manual transmission vehicle a bit troublesome, but not impossible.

He claims that his license need not have the condition B marking—drive only with special equipment for upper limbs—because a prosthetic hand only complicates matters. He says that once his Nissan is set on "D" he needs to do nothing else but apply the gas or brake to drive.

"If I do not comply with this rule, I am breaking the law. But it is clear that I am completely capable to drive without the aid of any special equipment."

But the Philippine driving culture is not friendly to the physically challenged (to be politically correct) whether in a car or out of it.

Take crossing the street for instance. In many streets, left or right turns are permitted even while pedestrians are crossing. Imagine trying to negotiate Makati Avenue or Paseo de Roxas, Shaw Boulevard and Tandang Sora Avenue on a wheelchair. It is difficult enough for more ambulant mortals, how much more if you had to tug a 12-kilo wheelchair around.

ANALYSIS

Though a law mandates the assignment of a parking slot for disabled people, it is most likely that this slot is used by some disrespectful moron, unable to distinguish what the "For Disabled" only sign means. And it is also likely that the parking slot will be as small in width as any other parking slot making it useless for unloading wheelchairs and similar equipment.

Deafness is no reason not to drive. With the way cars are built now, massive amounts of padding and noise insulation around the passenger cabin, occupants are isolated from the road anyway. So why does the license have a condition "E"—accompanied by a person with normal hearing—category?

Vehicle technology such as power steering and automatic transmission has offered more opportunities for people with disabilities to drive. Moreover, vehicle modifications, such as the installation of hand controls for braking and acceleration, left-foot accelerator conversions, seat and seatbelt revisions should be allowed, after inspection and testing, to enable more people with physical disabilities to drive.

Only in extreme circumstances—when the safety of the person and others around is compromised—can the authorities deny a handicapped person the privilege to drive.

Handicapped or disabled driving is not given as much attention as it should be. Though drivers with disabilities should not be treated as such, they should also accept the fact that their physical challenges require adaptive changes so as to keep driving safe.

Looking forward to 2002

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

NEXT year's new cars are usually launched in the United States in October, so this early, car zines are already reporting what motoring enthusiasts can look forward to. Here's a rundown on those that are expected to reach our shores:

Honda is coming up with an all-new CR-V and about time, too, because the current CR-V, introduced in Manila in October 1997, is getting a bit long in the tooth. The 2002 Honda CR-V, based on the platform of the new Civic, will be roomier with a sliding rear seat for versatility, reports the 2002 Car Preview. The new CR-V will reportedly be more powerful with a 2.4-liter i-VTEC engine delivering 160 horsepower, up from the present 2.0-liter 16-valve DOHC engine's 150-hp. New sheetmetal will give the CR-V a more aggressive appearance, says Automobile Magazine. The 2002 CR-V should prove a worthy competitor to the snazzy new Toyota RAV4 VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) that has been grabbing market share since its intro in Manila in June 2000. Nonetheless, one out of every three sport utility vehicles on the road is a CR-V, claims Honda Cars Philippines Inc., and cumulative sales reached 10,203 units as of April 2001, comprising 32 percent of the 31,670 market total for the same period. By the way, for the information of those who have to drive on flooded roads during the rainy season, the CR-V's ground clearance of 8.1 inches is higher than the Ford Explorer's or the Nissan Pathfinder's. However, the CR-V does not have the low-range gearing and undercarriage protection necessary for serious off-roading.

Speaking of the Ford Explorer, it's a four-door SUV that is not sold in the Philippines and should not be mixed up with the Ford Explorer SportTrac pickup, which is. The controversial four-door Explorer SUV was totally overhauled for 2002, including the replacement of the solid axle setup with a new independent rear suspension. But the two-door Explorer Sport SUV and Explorer SportTrac pickup remain basically unchanged for 2002. Incidentally, another Ford car that will get an independent rear suspension is the 2003 Expedition, which will be launched on the US market in mid-2002.

With a new Honda Civic, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Corolla vying in the lucrative compact car market, can a new Mitsubishi Lancer be far behind? The 2002 Lancer will be bigger and roomier, thanks to a longer (by three inches) wheelbase. In the United States, the 2002 Lancer will replace the Mitsubishi Mirage and have a new 2.0-liter, 4-cylinder engine capable of 120 hp @ 5500 rpm. A more powerful turbocharged all-wheel-drive (AWD) Lancer variant is expected to give the Subaru WRX stiff competition in the AWD sports sedan segment next year. But car buffs in the Philippines may have to wait a bit longer for this high-performance AWD Lancer.

A completely redesigned Toyota Camry will be presented for 2002. Sportier-looking than the current model, the 2002 Camry will undergo a powerplant upgrade as 4-cylinder DOHC engine displacement increases to 2.4 liters VVT-i from 2.2. Among the new Camry interior features mentioned by 2002 Car Preview are visor extensions and an overhead receptacle for sunglasses. A 3.0-liter DOHC V-6 Camry is also produced by Toyota, but not sold here because of the prohibitive taxes imposed on CBU (completely built-up) cars with six-cylinder engines. By the way, other Toyota vehicles such as the Highlander SUV (not to be mixed up with the Isuzu Hi-Lander AUV, the 2001 model of which was launched as the Crosswind last June), the Sienna "soccer mom" minivan, the pricey Lexus RX300 designer sport ute and the eye-catching Lexus ES300 luxury sedan are all built on the Camry's platform.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Support bacteria! It's the only culture some people have.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph.

Jaguar joins Motorshow International

BY JUN ALANO

THE EXCLUSIVE Philippine distributor of the prestigious Jaguar cars will be joining this year's Motorshow International (Philippines) to display the newest Jaguar models that the company is launching in the local market this weekend.

William Soong, president of Jaguar Philippines, said local car buffs would be pleasantly surprised with the new models they will be bringing in. However, he declined to name the specific models prior to the formal launch this Saturday.

More affordable

"What I can tell you is that the Jaguar will be more affordable. You know that our current models are in the P6 million range, but there will be models that are coming in that will be in the range below P3 million," the Jaguar executive said.

First time

This is the first time that Jaguar is joining any local automotive show, and the choice of Motorshow International confirms Motorshow's status as the Philippines' premier auto and cycle exhibition, said Marisa Nallana, Motorshow director-general.

With Jaguar's entry, it will definitely be an exciting and glamorous Motorshow season. Another luxury car dealer, Commercial Motors Corp., exclusive distributor of Mercedes Benz cars, is also joining the show.

Last year, it was the turn of the Mustang, Ford's legendary sports car, to dominate Motorshow.

Should...

(From page B12)

thus warned of an impending attack, and thus are given enough time to park their cars on the side.

In countries like Japan, Greece, Portugal and Brazil, people with epilepsy are totally banned from driving. But their governments have found out that a total ban hasn't prevented seizure-related accidents from happening. Why? Gutierrez analyzes there are drivers who have had their seizures for the first time. And there are people who lie to licensing authorities or falsify their medical records to acquire drivers' licenses.

It seems the stricter you are the more the public's tendency to hide epilepsy within their ranks.

Section 22 of Republic Act 4136, as amended by Batasang Pambansa Bilang 398 states that "every person who desires to operate any motor vehicle shall personally file an application to the director or deputies for a license to drive motor vehicles, provided, however, that he or she does not suffer from diseases such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease, epilepsy or who is an alcohol or drug addict or dependent."

Real danger

Land Transportation Office traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo said that the real danger lies with persons with epilepsy who do not know when the next attack would come.

"What is the line that would divide or distinguish the general welfare from the right of the person with epilepsy? Can we treat the law in a case-to-case basis?" asked Jacobo.

Jacobo added that not allowing people with epilepsy to drive, however, might lead to the derogation of the fundamental right to travel, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. "But this would be moot and academic since we have a law that bans them from driving."

Jacobo [illegible] a state, through legislators, would always have the common good in mind.

Feature Perfect.

Power mode selector switch Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventilation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct ignition system The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenance costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

Liquid filled motor mounts Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Chassis to body mounts. Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Two-speed transfer case Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

Full frame with crumple zones The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Should we let people with epilepsy drive?

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

MOTORCYCLIST Benjamin, 40, a businessman, has already met three accidents. Benjamin suffers from epilepsy, and sometimes he forgets to take his medications on time. When the disease attacks while he's on the bike, it's always too late.

Jeepney driver Ferdie, 25, is the eldest sibling in a large family and the sole breadwinner. Although he regularly takes his medications, he still experiences epilepsy seizures every day. But Ferdie says he doesn't worry about his affliction stopping him from becoming a productive citizen and doing the only job he knows doing best: driving. He adds that before he undergoes a seizure, there is always a warning sign: his stomach would ache.

Stressful

Driving is stressful, but a means of livelihood for some. It entails alertness and concentration. Private motorists need to concentrate on their driving. Drivers of public utility vehicles, however, have to mind the road and their passengers at the same time.

How can epilepsy, then, fit into such a demanding job? Should the public allow people with epilepsy to drive at all?

Perhaps, the first question we should ask is, who tells who first? Should the government take the first step and exercise more restrictive screening processes for driver's license applicants, or should the public or families report members who have epilepsy?

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Epilepsy is caused by abnormal electrical discharges from the brain cells. It's a disorder that causes recurrent seizures in varying intensities. It is not contagious, but anyone can have epilepsy at any stage of life. The causes range from brain infections, tumors, strokes, trauma, developmental and degenerative conditions and genetic abnormalities.

Many considerations

Over 230 Filipinos per 100,000 population suffer from epilepsy. Of this number, 180 are children. Almost all of these youngsters will be compelled, or required, to drive.

Neurologist Josephine Casanova Gutierrez of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy said, during the First National Epilepsy Congress on Sept. 8, that the PLEA discourages blanket prohibitions and laws that dismiss all persons with epilepsy as dangerous on the road. Gutierrez added that not all seizures while driving result in accidents.

In deciding if a person with epilepsy should be allowed to drive, said Gutierrez, one has to balance many considerations. There have been many misconceptions about the disease, and objective studies should be considered, she said.

"It is easy to totally ban all people with epilepsy to drive, but the question is this: Is that a fair way to decide for patients with epilepsy? What do the figures say? Are they a danger to the public? Are they a danger to themselves?"

Gutierrez pointed out figures in a study that indicate only 0.25 percent of all road accidents are seizure-related as compared to the average driver, which is 10 percent.

Gutierrez also showed the average driver would have an accident as a result of collision with someone with a seizure once in 4,000 years.

She said that the accident risk for people with epilepsy is about 1.3 to 1.8 times that of normal drivers. She also added that other persons with comparable risks are allowed to drive.

Gutierrez also cited the study of Normal LG, Medical Aspects of Road Safety. It showed an 11-year study of 20,000 bus drivers that resulted in only 8 accidents due to seizures.

Gutierrez, however, pointed out there are reasons for the seizure related accidents. First, only few people with epilepsy drive, and they do not drive as much as the average driver. The numbers may be low, but the accidents are more severe. She stressed, however, that not all seizures at the wheel result in an accident because only 50 percent of seizures at the wheel result in an accident and people with epilepsy are more careful drivers.

However, she considered people with frequent seizures should not drive.

Minor role

Gutierrez stressed that epilepsy, in fact, plays a minor role in the causes of motoring accidents. She said that "normal drivers" face far greater risks.

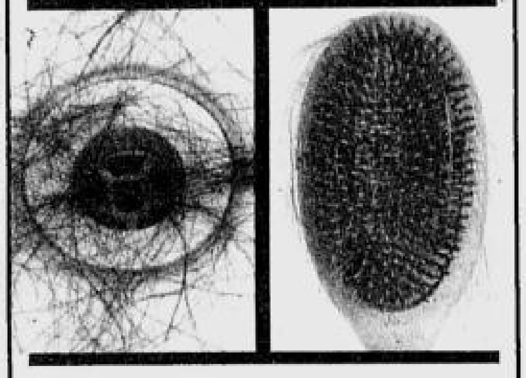
- The study says that more males meet an accident than females. Male drivers are 15 percent more accident prone than female drivers.
- The summer months of the year are when most accidents occur. The probability is higher during Friday and Saturday.
- Drivers aged 15 to 24, and above 65 years old are more likely to be involved in accidents.

Certain medical conditions even pose higher risks for drivers, she pointed out from other studies. Though 38 percent of motoring accidents involving diseases are attributed to seizures, 17 percent are traced to cardiovascular diseases, 23 percent to blackouts, 17 percent to insulin overdose, and 8 percent to strokes and other sicknesses. A study also indicated that the risk of an alcoholic getting involved in an accident is 30 times more than seizure related accidents.

Seizures

Gutierrez said that seizures from epilepsy have varying intensities and duration. There are mild seizures, such as tingling and numbness on one side of the face and hands, but without loss of awareness. A certain 45-year-old man has been undergoing about 10 generalized tonic clonic seizures over the past 20 years, every episode during sleep. Others' seizures only involve the hardening of a hand in a short time. Some people experience complex partial seizures, with warning symptoms before an attack. Some motorists with epilepsy are

SHOULD/p.B11



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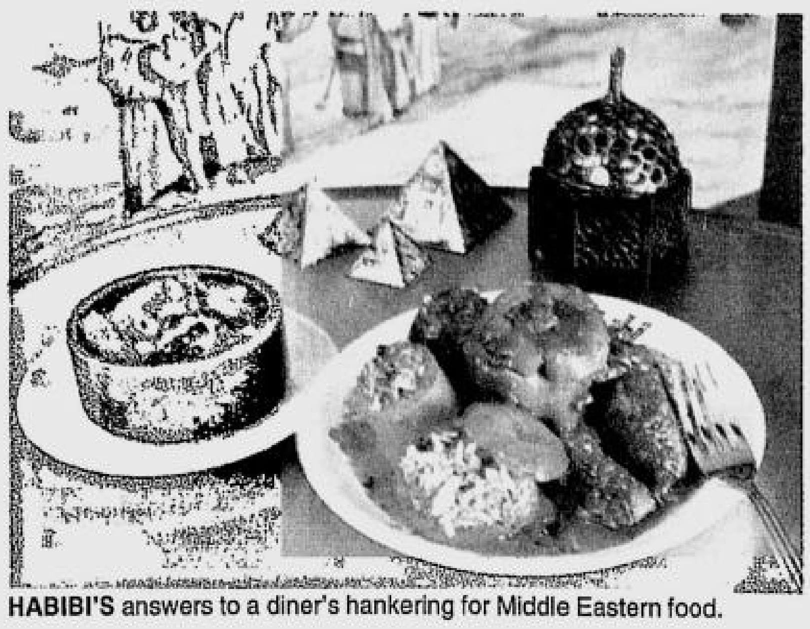
LIFESTYLE Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor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Desert nights in Hong Kong

By Kitty Go

HONG Kong has always been known either for authentic Chinese food or trendy, Western food ranging from the fabulous to frightening, particularly in the Lan Kwai Fong and Soho areas. As I wondered where I could get Middle Eastern or North African food similar to that of Jerusalem on M.H. del Pilar in Malate or Pasha on the Gloucester Road in London, lo and behold, with food as with miracles, my prayers were answered. Fortunately (or unfortunately), my food prayers (for anything from *champoy* to *champorado*) are the only ones that get answered. So you can just imagine my religious conversion when I found Habibi and La Kasbah, both in Cen-

DESERT/ p.C3

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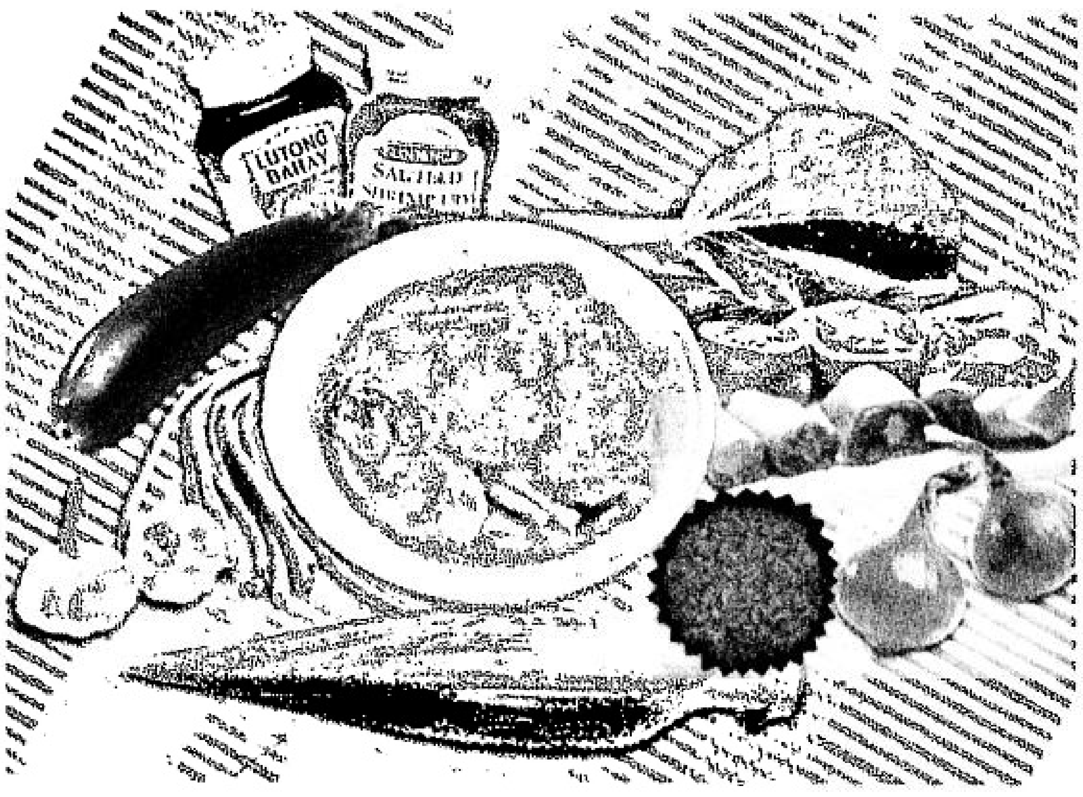


Easy-to-cook classic Pinoy stew

AS REPRESENTATIVE of the finest in Pampango cuisine, the *kare-kare* is distinguished by its rich, vigorous and excellent flavor. Whether prepared by an ordinary homemaker or a master cook, it's a dish that is much-anticipated in Filipino homes. As everyone knows, the *kare-kare* is uneventful as a dish without *bagoong*. The test kitchen of Florence Foods Corp. has concocted its own version of this classic Pampango dish.

Kare-Kare with Sautéed Shrimp Fry

Beef tail
Beef hocks
6 c water
½ c water
4 pc eggplant
2 bundles string beans
1 c toasted, ground rice
1 c ground peanuts
½ c *achuete* seeds for coloring
1 pc Lucia banana blossom (Butuan variety)
1 head garlic, chopped
2 pc onions, sliced
¼ c cooking oil
½ c Lutong Bahay sautéed shrimp fry

Boil the tail and hocks in water until tender. Cut into desired pieces and set aside. Soak *achuete* seeds in water. Rub to bring out color. Set aside. Cut vegetables into desired pieces. Boil water, drop string beans and parboil. Remove and set aside. Do likewise with eggplants and banana blossom. Sauté garlic and onions in cooking oil. Add *achuete* water. Let it boil for 5 minutes. Blend in ground peanuts and ground rice. Bring to a boil, then put in the meat. Just before removing from the fire, add vegetables. Serve with sautéed shrimp fry.

A family award for a family affair

MAMA Sita Foundation recently launched its Search for a Cooking Family Using Native Ingredients at the Department of Tourism.

The occasion, attended by luminaries in the local food industry, jumpstarts the Mama Sita Awards for the Advancement of Filipino Culinary Traditions with the search for family-operated food enterprises to use healthy ingredients in the menu.

To qualify for the search, the whole family must be involved in the food operation that is the source of livelihood for all its members. This family enterprise must be located in Metro Manila and should have a maximum capital of P200,000. It must have been in active operation for a minimum of one year with the necessary health permits and certificates, and its premises must have been consistently clean and sanitary.

The search will culminate in the awards night on May 11, 2002, birth anniversary of Mama Sita. Scholarships in culinary arts, food sanitation and safety will be awarded to the cooking family recipient of the award. The foundation hopes that the scholarship awards can help even small local food businesses improve the quality of their food and services.

Interested parties who would like to join the Search for a Cooking Family can get a copy of the nomination form and inquire about details from the Mama Sita Award Secretariat located at 131 F. Manalo St., San Juan, or call 724-9435/9451, fax 726-0369 or e-mail info@msita.com. Nominations must be submitted on or before Nov. 30.

Organized by her family and friends, the Mama Sita Foundation honors Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, the visionary behind the world-famous Mama Sita brand of mixes and sauces who passed away in 1998. It hopes to support enterprising families and individuals to improve their culinary skills to professional standards.

On the foundation's board of trustees are Clarita R. Lapus, president; Jesusa M. Ortigoza, vice president; Maria Elena C. Ramiro, secretary; Leonarda R. Tulao, treasurer; Alejandro Wilfredo Clemente, Geronimo V. Manahan, Victoria Rosario R. Pacheco, Adolfo Z. Reyes II, Lourdes R. Reyes, Filomeno S. Sta. Ana III and Pantaleon L. Tabanao, members.

To sustain its efforts, Mama Sita Foundation accepts orders of customized cashew wine, a perfect wedding giveaway. It also accepts orders of naturally fermented, premium and young coconut nectar vinegars, perfect hostess gifts, or to include in Christmas gift baskets.

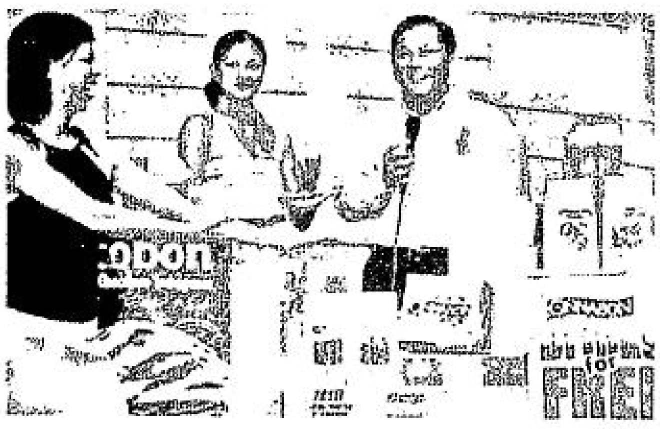
LEONARDA R. Tulao, eldest daughter of Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes and trustee of Mama Sita Foundation

RUTH L. Guingona

TASTEMAKERS

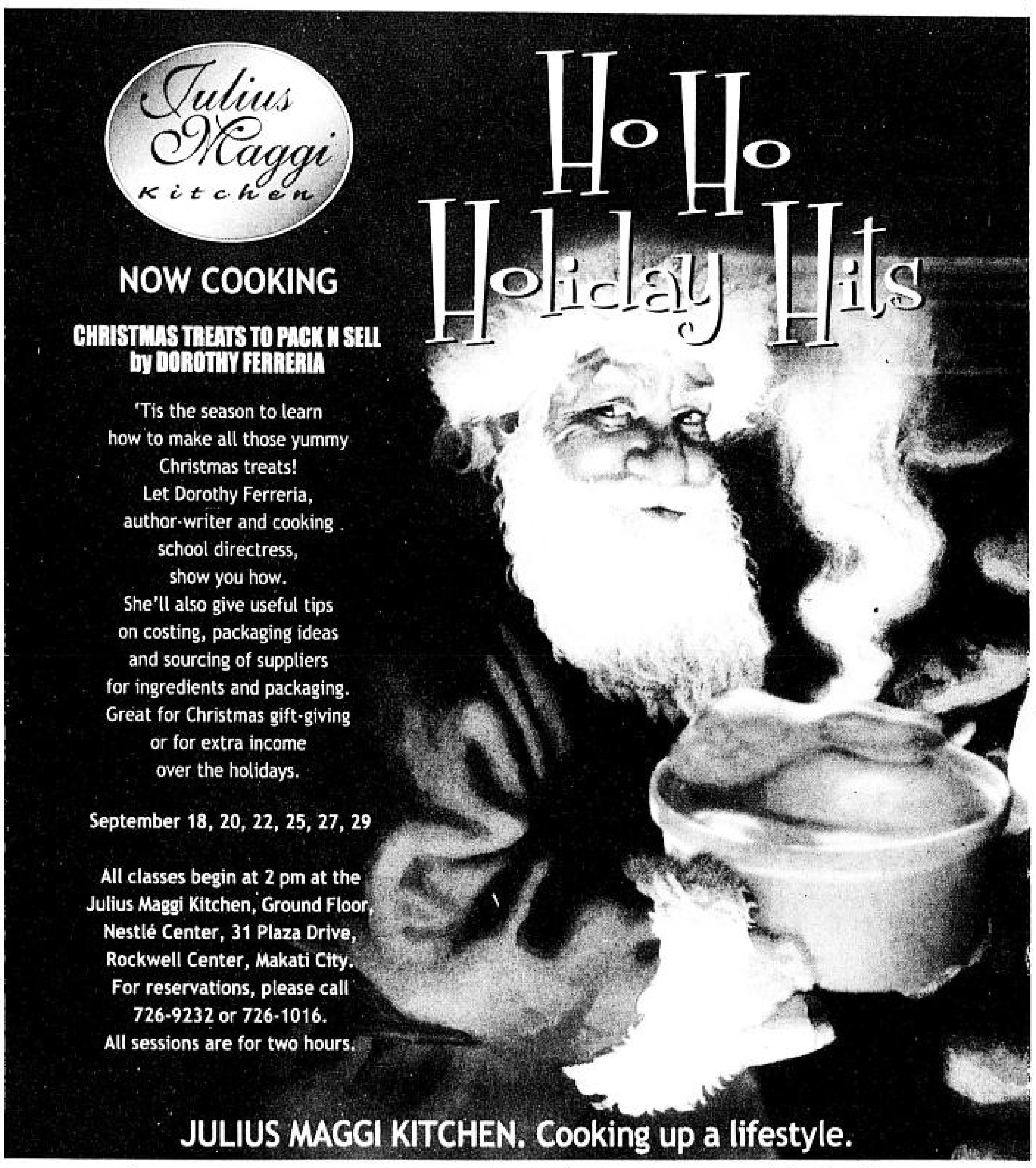
GREAT EURO ESCAPE

An art exhibit by artist Popo San Pascual, dubbed "Opere de'Arte a Venezia" kicked off Figaro's Great European Festival, featuring new beverages, coffee concoctions and dishes in Figaro outlets this month. Photo shows (l-r) Torres Wines and Spirits' Joey Gutierrez, Instituto Cervantes' Angel Gonzales, CPK's Manuel Zubiri, Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan, Oriental Marchants VP/GM Ana Garcia Zubiri, Purefoods/Hormel International Sales and Marketing officer Hilda Tolentino, Oriental Merchants' Noel Chavez and Figaro Company Coffee CEO Pacita U. Juan during the exhibit's opening. Highlight of the festival is a Wine and Cheese Appreciation Night at Figaro Emerald on Sept. 14, 18 and 21 with oenology expert Juan Carlos de Terry of Terry Selection and Joey Gutierrez of Torres Wines and Spirits.



WAKER-UPPER

Cinnabon recently visited the set of "Unang Hirit" and helped liven up the morning for Lyn Ching, Hans Montenegro, Arnold Clavio, Miriam Qulambao and Suzy Abrera with Cinnabon cinnamon rolls and steaming cups of Rubymoon coffee. Shown discussing the latest Cinnabon products like the CinnabonStix and the Chocobon are Miriam, Suzy and Rene E. Santos, president of Canelle Food Corporation, makers of Cinnabon.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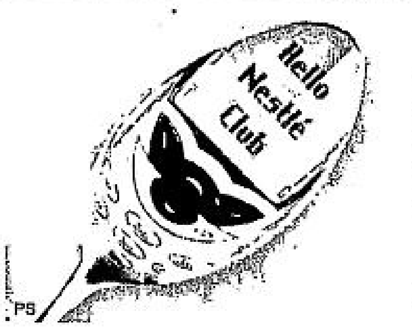

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From braising to stir-frying

THE CENTER for Culinary Arts (CCA), with Lee Kum Kee, is holding a course on Chinese cooking dubbed "A Taste of China" on Sept. 15 at CCA 287 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. The course will teach participants basic Chinese cooking techniques, from braising to stir-frying. Call 426-4835/37 or 426-4841 or e-mail culinary@infocom.com.ph. A 15-percent discount on the course fee will be given to the first 40 registrants.

Albert Padilla of Baguio City. Future film director with a Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9.

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Desert nights in Hong Kong

(From page C1)

"STEP into my parlor" rather than "rock the kasba"

tral.

A meal at Habibi takes you out of the bustling Oriental activity of Hong Kong to soignee Cairo in the '30s. The play of shadow and light from perforated metal lamps greets you in the mysterious yet welcoming way of the desert. A real "evening in Cairo" experience, the restaurant is bathed in a sepia tone reminiscent of old movies. Banquettes are upholstered in terra-cotta colored silk and are strewn with pillows of every shape covered in printed or embroidered silk. Most everything on the menu will not disappoint and there is something for everyone, particularly vegetarians.

A combination of hot and cold *mezzes* (small dishes traditionally served as appetizers) can be a meal in itself. Cold *mezzes* are presented to guests at their tables. Habibi has popular dishes such as *hummos* (chickpea puree), *tabbouleh* (bulgar wheat with tomato and mint) and *babaganough* (pureed eggplant and lemon juice), but the *labna* (yogurt seasoned with garlic and olive oil) and *mikhallillaat* (Egyptian-style pickled vegetables with *dakka* dressing) are worth a mouth-watering try with their home-baked flat bread.

Habibi's specialty is Tagen which are oven baked vegetables, fish or meat. Two of the most highly recommended Tagen are Ruzz Muammar (game hen with rice pilaf) and Samak Sayadiyi (fresh sea bass with tomato, bell peppers and onions). Other specialties are the *dolmas* (stuffed vegetables with an aromatic mix of rice and minced lamb) and Saman Mashwi (quail marinated in sumac and Egyptian spices). Many dessert connoisseurs swear by the *baklava* and *shoukolalat* (dark chocolate flavored with cinnamon and honey). If you're looking for the perfect smoke to end a perfect meal, puff on a colorful *shisha* pipe, a standing pipe with a hose connected to the wooden mouthpiece. Tobacco comes in fruit or regular flavor.

Meet me at the . . .

La Kasbah lives up to its name as the home or refuge of North Africans with its lamp-lit intimate setting of brass and wooden tables against terra-cotta walls and floors, and needless to say, its traditional, flavorful cuisine of the Maghreb (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco). More sensuously "step into my parlor" than "rock the kasbah," the authentic décor—from rotund ceramic ashtrays to minute, colorful Moroccan tea glasses—and stylish French music mixes take the sensual La Kasbah experience beyond gastronomy. The owner, Mehdi Boudia, travels to Paris and Morocco quarterly and brings back attractive conversation pieces and great grooves (Claude Challe and Buddha Bar series are favorites) which he uses to enhance the La Kasbah dining experience.

You can't go wrong starting your meal with the *mezze/kemia*, a sampler of four appetizers: *Zaalouk* (pureed eggplant), *mechouia* (grilled pepper with lemon jus), *cigares* (*filo* pastry filled with cheese, mined lamb and chicken) and *boureck* (*filo* pastry stuffed with dried apricots and almonds). Another popular starter is the *feva* bean salad with oranges, olives, pigeon and *mechouia* dressing.

The house specialty is *tagine*, meat or vegetables mixed with sweet and spiced fruit and simmered in a funnel-covered terra-cotta clay pot. You can choose to eat this with freshly baked bread or any of the seven types of *couscous*, each a meal in itself. Also notable is the *pastilla*, a sweet and spicy pastry tastily filled with pigeon, egg, cinnamon, almonds, honey, parsley and a dash of orange flower water. The combination is hard to image, but a taste of this will win you over.

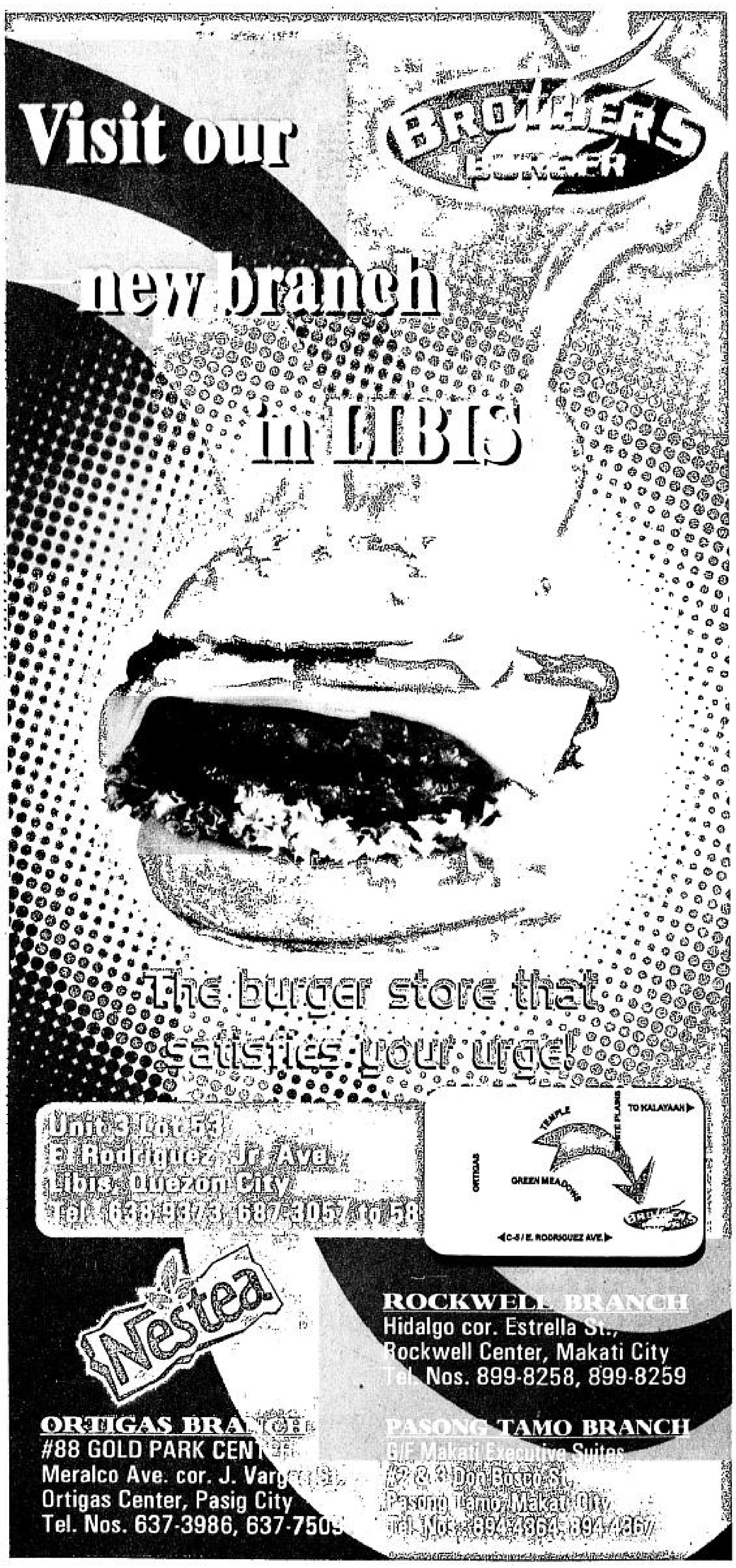
Dinner at La Kasbah also gives you the chance to try North African wine. Mr. Boudia recommends the smooth and popular Moroccan, Bilade Nour 1998, or the more full-bodied Alegerian, Mansourah 1998.

Traditional Maghrebi cuisine uses relatively strong spices, primarily cumin, cayenne pepper, cinnamon, saffron and *ras-el-hanout*. This flavoring is made up of about 20 different spices and each supplier has his own blend, thus the name "shop-keeper's choice." It is traditionally used on meat dishes. Some North African restaurants do not use *ras-el-hanout* because like saffron, it is strong. A little goes a **very** long way. La Kasbah uses it because Mr. Boudia thinks it really enhances the food and customers like it. Extreme care and time is taken in the preparation of food at La Kasbah that they are sadly, open only for dinner. But what an experience!

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

Habibi is located at the G/F 112-114 Wellington Street, Central, Hong Kong, tel. (852) 2544-9298, 2544-6198

La Kasbah (Cuisine du Maghreb) is located at the Basement, 17 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong, tel. (852) 2525-9493 (dinner only, 6:30 p.m.-12 mn, Monday to Saturday; bar is open from 6:30 p.m.-3 a.m. on weekends). Visit www.kasbah.hkdining.com



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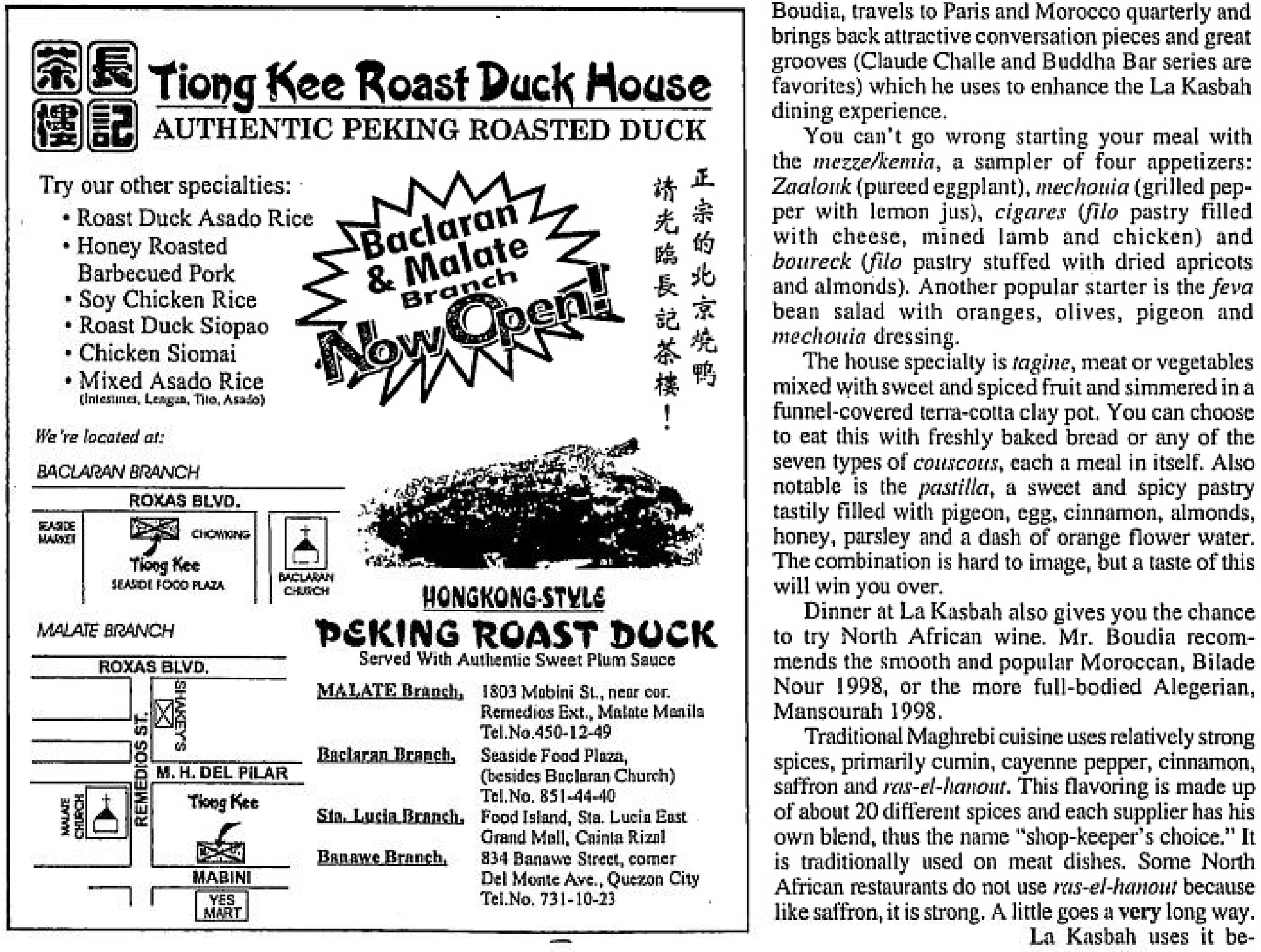

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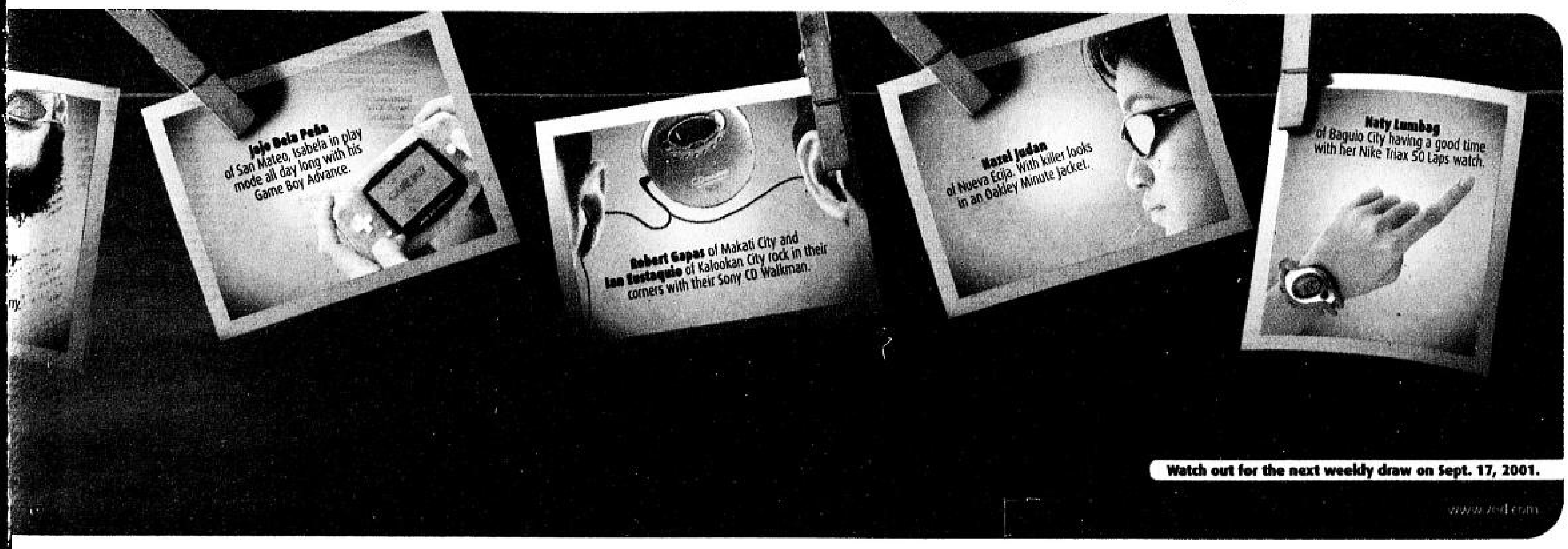


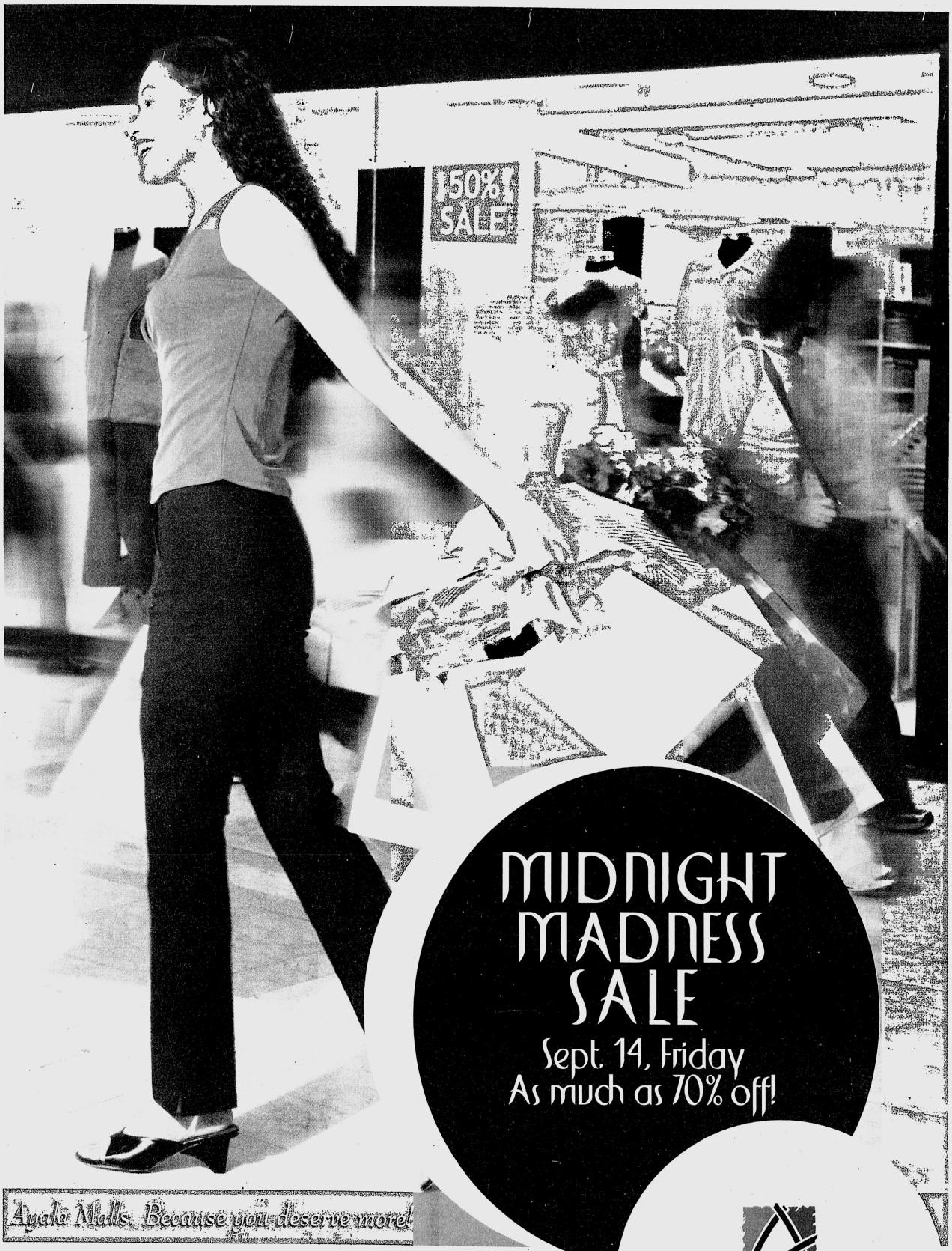
Jojo Dela Peña of San Mateo, Isabela in play mode all day long with his Game Boy Advance.

Robert Gapas of Makati City and Ian Eustaquio of Kalookan City rock in their corners with their Sony CD Walkman.

Hazel Judan of Nueva Ecija. With killer looks in an Oakley Minute Jacket.

Naty Lumbag of Baguio City having a good time with her Nike Triax 50 Laps watch.

Watch out for the next weekly draw on Sept. 17, 2001.



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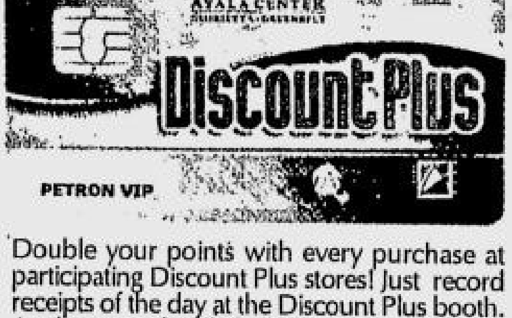

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The eels and elvers of our acquaintance

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

WHAT eels do you know, which do you eat and enjoy? The Filipino *igat*, *palos* (large eel, which Pampangos cook with *kamias*), *balila* (larger than *igat*, smaller than *palos*), or the long *pindanga* (moray eel)? Have you tried them smoked (from the Netherlands), or stir-fried and spicy in oil (Shanghainese), or baked with bay leaves (Venice), or jellied (England), or in a soup (Hamburg)? Or cooked the French way, in one of more than 50 ways listed in the "Larousse Gastronomique" (*a l'anglaise, à la bonne femme, coulibiac, à la fermiere*, etc.)?

Perhaps you have enjoyed *angulas* (Spanish), the tiny elvers that are scooped up from the waters, dropped in hot olive oil, preferably in a *cazuela*, and cooked in a minute, to be eaten with special wooden forks. *Angulas* did not use to be canned or transported, so small and fragile are they, until someone discovered that a pinch of snuff would send them into a happy stupor, in which state they could be canned and served in Spanish restaurants outside Spain (like Alba's and El Comedor in Makati).

Surely, surely, you have had eel the Japanese way: As *kabayaki*. The Japanese have been eating eels since antiquity, regarding it as especially nutritious, yet to be prepared only by specialists and not at home. The Japanese know their eel, and enhance the soft rich flesh with dark sweetish sauces; or else make it into *unagi* or *anago* (sea eel) sushi. That is the matter of this column, but before that, a story.

Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin published in 1825 his famous book, "The Physiology of Taste," or "Meditations on Transcendental Gastronomy." It is famous for many worthy reasons, but I refer to it today because of an eel story. "The Savoury Eel" begins with an individual named Briguet, who moved back with his wife to Talissieu, his birthplace.

In 1791 it came to be the turn of the curé of Talissieu to host a gathering of other parish priests to discuss ecclesiastical affairs. Having been gifted with a superb eel by one of his flock, he asked Madame Briguet to cook "a dish worthy of an archbishop." She agreed, and said she had "a little box containing certain rare condiments, which she had used in the employ of her former mistress."

Indescribable

The eel was "studiously confectioned, and served with due distinction. Shapely it was, and its smell an enchantment; and when it was tasted, words could not be found to express its praise; and so it disappeared, body and sauce, down to the last particle."

"But it came to pass that... the reverend men were stirred in a most unwonted fashion and that, by reason of the unfailing influence of physical over moral, their talk turned to naughtiness," and they spoke of college escapades, scandal, the "sweetest of the deadly sins," and remarkably "they were all blissfully unconscious of their wickedness, so covertly the devil went about his work."

The next morning, ashamed of what they had said, they blamed it all on the dish of eel, admitting its delicacy but not wishing for a second test. What were the secret condiments? Madame Briguet "pleaded guilt to a liberally pimentoed crayfish sauce," but Brillat-Savarin holds for certain "that she was not telling me the whole truth."

Beware, then, but do enjoy this delicacy which, say Gault and Millau, authors of the restaurant guides, "is the fish which can boast of having inspired the longest and most extravagant list of gastronomic recipes. Handling eel may represent a problem in urbanized societies, because it must be kept alive till the moment of cooking, and some see its unfortunate resemblance to the snake, although it has tiny scales; or consider it slippery (thus 'slippery as an eel')."

Learn from the Japanese. The Unagi Festival in July at the Inaho Tei restaurant of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel (1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; tel. 633-8888) listed 15 dishes. Among them were: Uzaku, grilled eel and thinly sliced cucumber with a sweet sauce. It was superb, and won unanimous applause from our party; and Unagi Battera, grilled eel on vinegared rice—almost like sushi, but generously sized. Unagi Kabarage is deep-fried eel with a vinegar sauce like a Pinoy *sawsawan*. Unagi Seiromushi is eel steamed on rice with a teriyaki sauce; Unagi Yakimeshi fried rice with eel and vegetables; Unagi Kimoyaki grilled eel liver with teriyaki sauce; Unagi Zosui rice porridge with eel and vegetables; Unagi Soba buckwheat noodles with grilled eel in a hot soup.

We especially appreciated and lauded the Unagi Chawanmushi, the gentle steamed egg custard, this time

THE EELS/ p.D3

CLOCKWISE, from top right: Unagi Tamagojyu, Umaki Tamago and Unagi Soba

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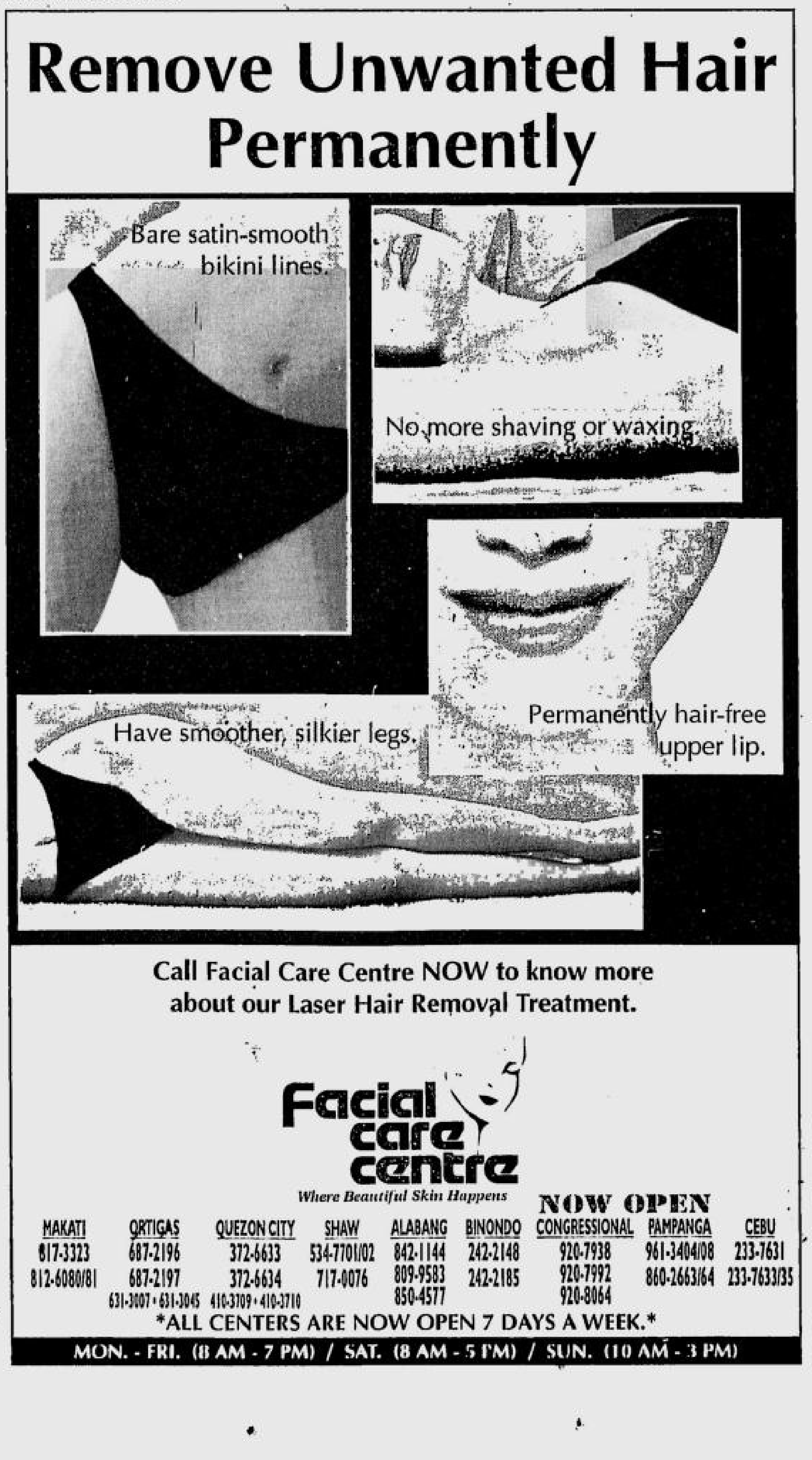

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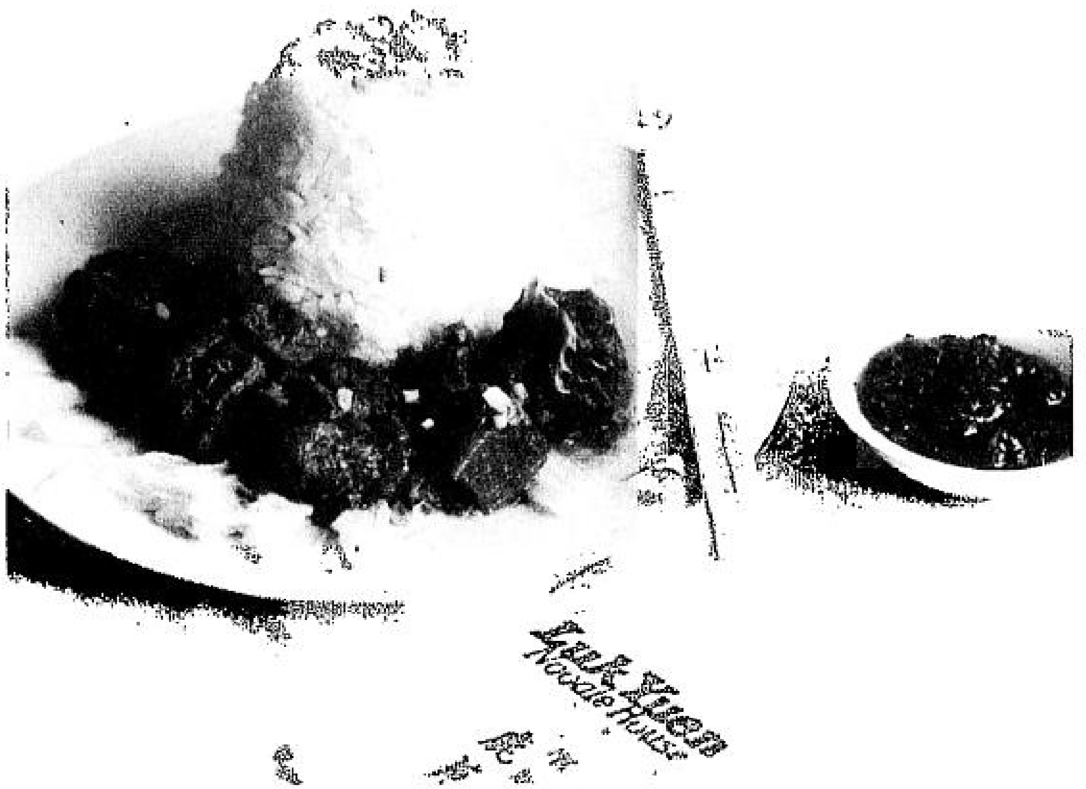

A REAL *busog* winner—Luk Yuen's beef brisket rice

LUK Yuen's classic *asado siopao* is an all-time favorite to go with its wanton noodle soup, another classic hit that tastes even better with chili sauce.

A COMFORT food, Luk Yuen's *halo-halo* congee

Noodle house raffles off trip to Singapore to celebrate long life

TO MARK Luk Yuen Noodle House's 20th anniversary, a raffle promo was recently launched titled "Luk Yuen: Gud 2 b 20!" The promo is ongoing until Oct. 31. Diners have a chance to win a trip for two to Singapore for three nights and four days with hotel accommodations. Also to be raffled off are 20 Chain Mart gift checks worth P2,000 each at either Uni-Mart, Cash & Carry or Makati Supermart Alabang, and 20 Luk Yuen gift checks worth P1,000 each. Every P200 worth of food bill entitles a diner to one raffle coupon.

The name Luk Yuen means "deer garden" in China, which symbolizes prosperity. Indeed, Maxim's Group of Restaurants Hong Kong did right in giving the name to Luk Yuen when it first opened 20 years ago at the old Makati Commercial Center (now Ayala Center). Six outlets later, Luk Yuen diners can still enjoy good, authentic Chinese dimsums with a sprinkle of good wishes for prosperity.

Celia Angeles, Luk Yuen's manager, recalls that the ambience was so different then as the interiors were done mostly in wood. The restaurant specialized in mouth-watering dimsums or *yum cha*, tasty congees and delicious noodles. Unlike in fast-foods, diners need not line up to order food. Instead, waiters attend to them for convenience. Regular diners include professionals from nearby offices, shoppers, students and tourists who frequent Makati's premier shipping mecca.

Luk Yuen has been enjoying continued patronage all these years. Angeles says with pride that Luk Yuen has its very own classic four, dishes that have been diners' favorites since Day 1: The *halo-halo* congee, the *asado siopao*, the wanton noodle soup and the beef brisket rice.

Luk Yuen has branches at Greenbelt Mall, Glorietta 2, both in Ayala Center, Makati, SM Megamall B basement, Greenhills Shopping Center, Cash & Carry and Makati Supermart Alabang. Each Luk Yuen outlet boasts of its own kitchen where all dishes are carefully prepared by its Chinese and Filipino cooks, trained by a staff of Hong Kong chefs.

California dreamin' at the Inter-Con

CAFÉ Jeepney at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila goes on a culinary trip to the Golden State until Sept. 23. Executive chef David Lease is cooking up sunny California favorites like Cioppino-Seafood Soup, Salad of Daikon, Carrot and Mint Leaves with Smoked Duck Breast and Baked Focaccia with Oven-dried Tomatoes. Bound to be bestsellers are Mixed Greens with Goat Cheese Croutons and Bacon-Wrapped Salmon Steak stuffed with Oysters in Lobster Nage. Other delectables are Cider-Glazed Porkloin with Apples and Pumpkin and the Indian-inspired Steamed Basmati Rice with Cardamom. For dessert, mouth-watering offerings include Orange-Lemon Creme Brulée, Five Spice-Flavored Cheesecake and Red Berry Crumble. Café Jeepney is open daily from 6 a.m.-12 mn. Call 819-0645.

DINING OUT

CASA ARMAS celebrates its Chorizo Festival this month. The restaurant has created a special platter of *chorizo* variations composed of Salchichon, Pamplona, Cantimpalo and Sobrasada Mallorquina. Try the Tabla Chorizo Especial for only P360 per platter this month. Casa Armas is at 132 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Summer Palace celebrates "Zhong Qui Jie" or mid-autumn festival with moon cakes until Oct. 1. Summer Palace also offers a variety of fillings such as red bean paste, mixed nuts, egg custard, as well as nonbaked frosted mini moon cakes with egg custard and lotus seed paste. These delicacies are available for sale at the restaurant reception area at the Mezzanine and at the Main Lobby. Call 633-8888 local 12738 to 12739.

LIGHT BISTRO. This 30-seater resto on Katipunan is home to a unique blend of continental cuisine with Filipino flavors. Try its mouth-watering "September Seafood Fiesta." Love the new twist of Crispy Tilapia with Mushroom Adobado. Savor the grill flavor of Seafood Kebab with Mango Salsa. Satisfy your hunger with a generous serving of Seafood Fried Rice with Spicy Tuyo. And treat your palate to a sumptuous Pan-Seared Fillet of Fish with Oriental Sauce. Light Bistro is located at 223 Katipunan Ave., QC. Call 421-0640.

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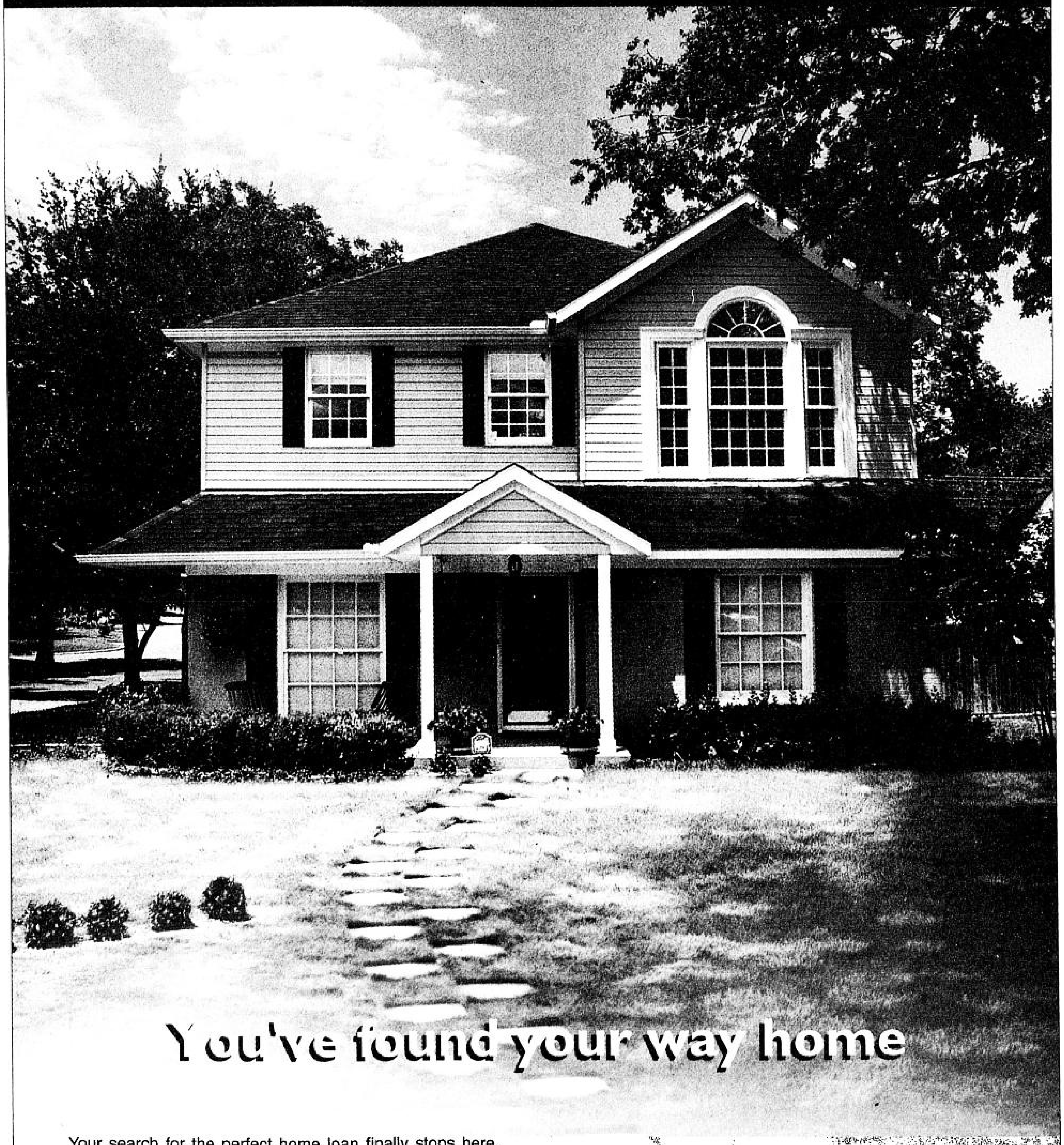

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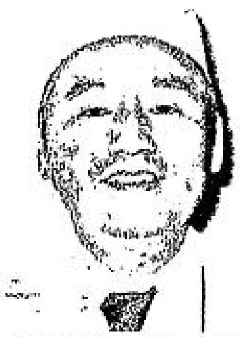
The eels and elvers . . .

(From page D1)

with rich fat eel pieces in the bottom of the cup, and succulent fat mushrooms on top and in the middle. The range and the fine orchestration of pieces showed us how the Japanese have mastered the eel repertoire, have played with it in traditional and nouvelle ways, and have made it a significant dish in the global lexicon.

The festival is over, but *unagi* dishes are available in all the best Japanese restaurants in town. They are a must.

Anguilla anguilla, the common eel of the Mediterranean and East Atlantic, "begins in the Sargasso Sea," where the eggs hatch out into tiny larvae, which then drift across the Atlantic to Europe in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, slowly growing in size... When they arrive at the mouths of European rivers, they are small, transparent and pencil-shaped. It is at this stage, or when they are swimming up rivers, that they may be caught as elvers..." Those not caught proceed up-river and spend most of the rest of their lives in fresh water.



TOSHIO Sato, new Japanese chef of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

There are as well *A. rostrata*, which moves westward from the West Indies to Newfoundland; *A. australis* and *A. reinhardtii* in Australian waters; and *A. japonica*, in the temperate regions of East Asia. "In Japan the farming of eels is big business, but most elvers acquired by the Japanese come from the Loire or the Severn, so that *A. anguilla* is, in fact, the eel which is most eaten in Japan." And most welcome to our tables.

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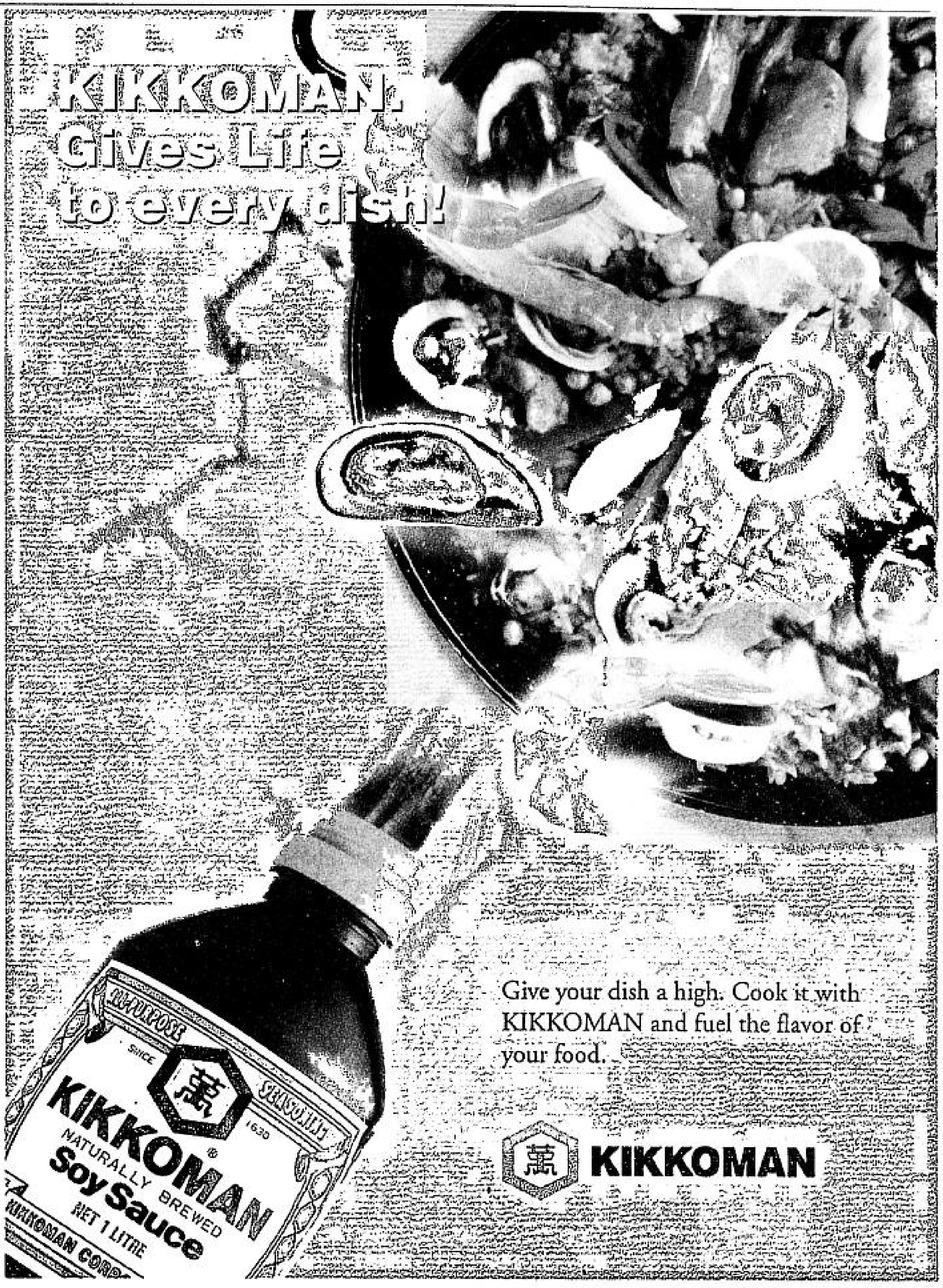

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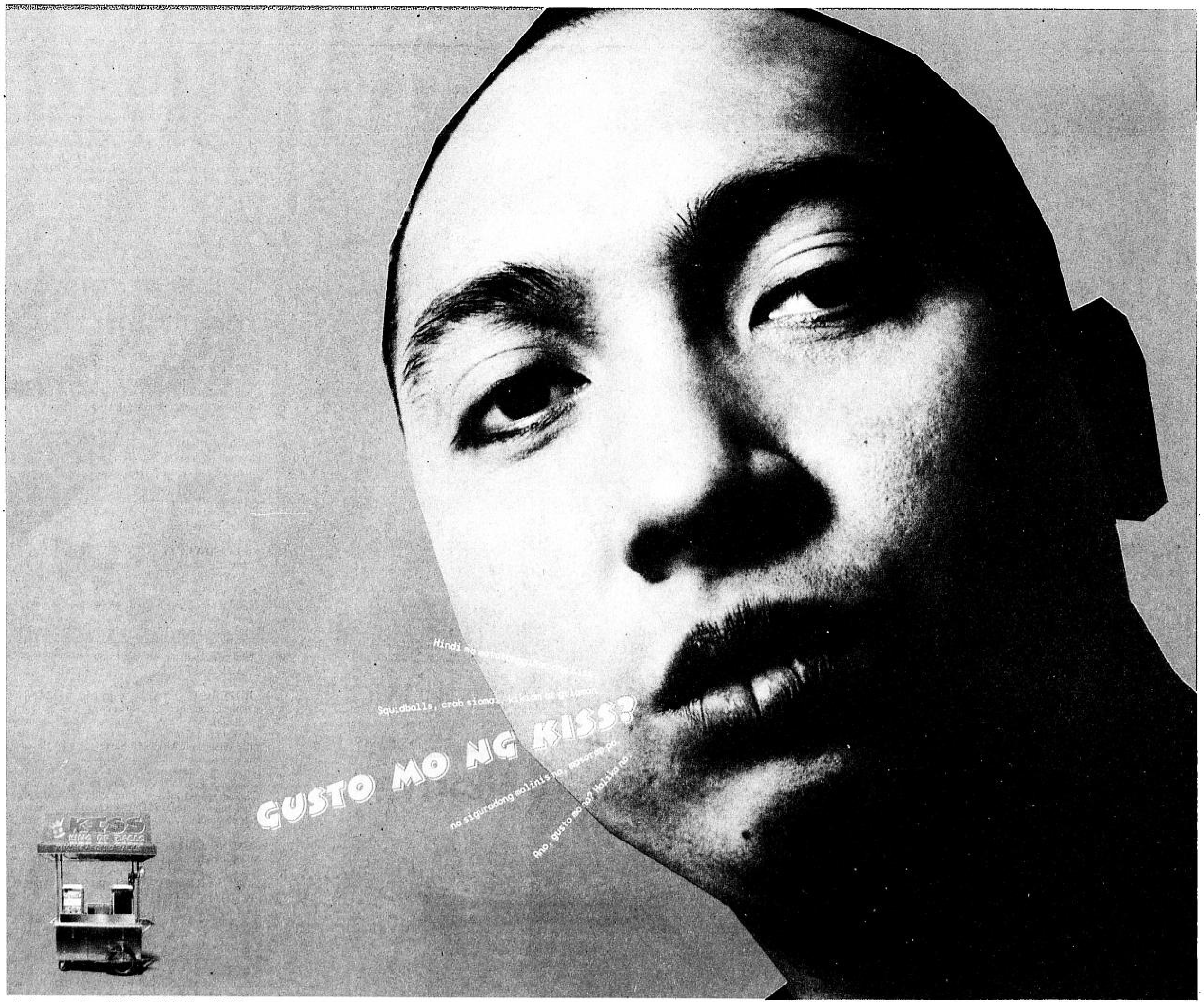

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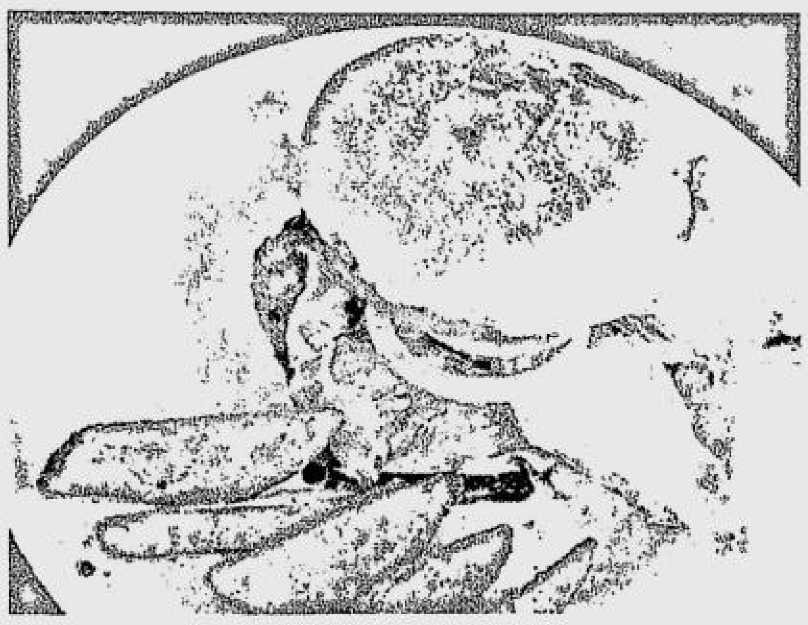
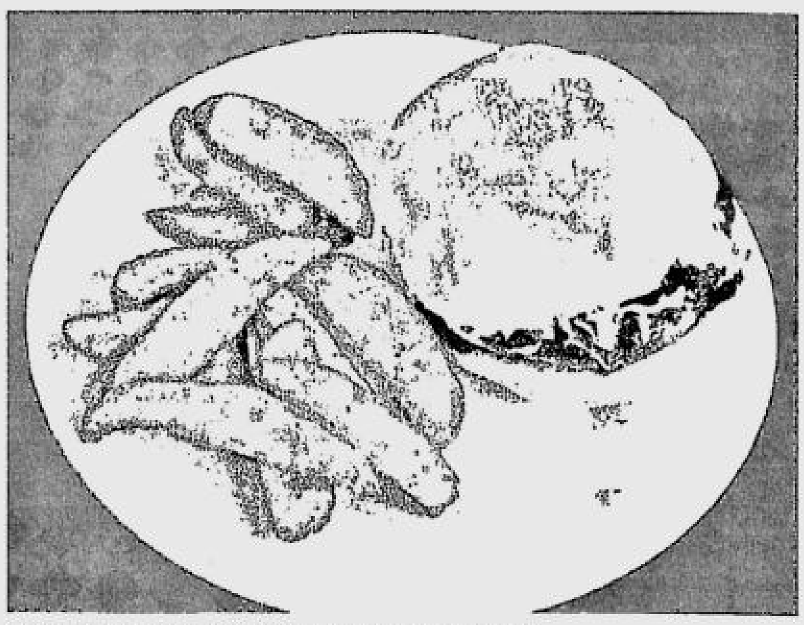
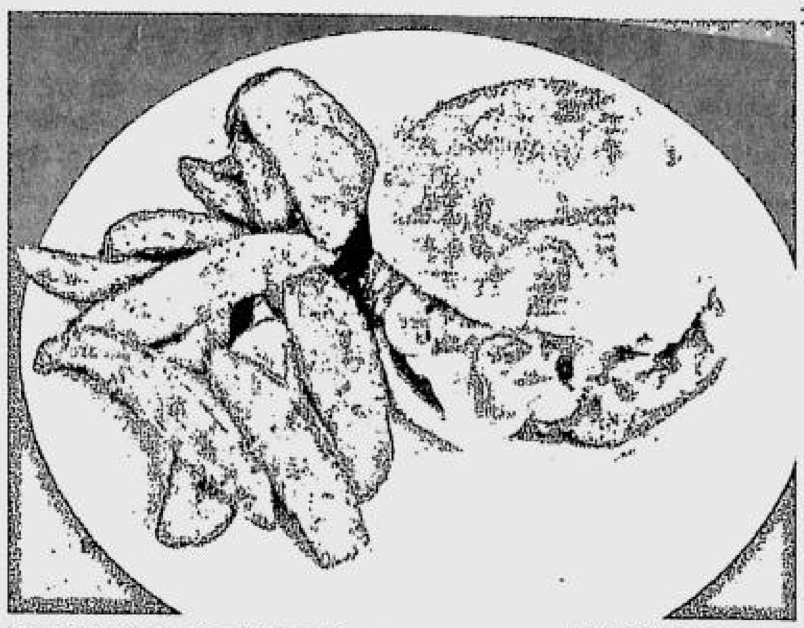


ROAST Chicken Burger with onions, gravy and lettuce with potato wedges



GARLIC BARBECUE with coleslaw and cheese



THE BETTER size Adobo Burger

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Goodie, goodie

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ALMOST everybody loves a warm, yummy and juicy hamburger, but not everybody gives in to the strong temptation because of all the fat and the grease.

Not with Good Burgers, a new hamburger joint along Libis in Quezon City that offers 95 percent fat-free burgers but with 100 percent of the taste hamburger aficionados love.

Darah Consunji, one of the founders of Good Burgers, says their burgers are fat-free because the patties are made out of ground chicken. She swears that people who sink their teeth into their burgers will not know that they are made of chicken because the patties look and taste just like beef.

The patties are also grilled so most of the fat drips off, making these burgers not only good in name but good in nature.

Consunji admits that she, her sister, an aunt and some cousins originally thought of putting up a gourmet burger joint just like Brothers Burger and Hotshots that use beef.

"We all love to eat hamburgers so we thought that there should still be room in the market for another hamburger outlet," she relates.

She and her cousins then started putting the plan together. They already got the lease contract at the San Jacinto Compound along Libis and it was time to put the recipes together.

As bad (or good) luck would have it, the mad cow scare hit the country full force and it became almost impossible to look for good beef and the market suddenly shied away from beef products.

So if there's no beef, why not chicken?

Darah, an HRA graduate, took on the role of experimenting with ground chicken. After feeding their families enough experimental patties to last the year, she got the different flavors together and by March, Good Burgers opened the take-out counter to the market.

"We put in about P400,000 of our money. We did not borrow but we all used our life savings into this project. We started with this take-out counter because we wanted to start small and make sure that the concept really works," Consunji says.

They came up with ground chicken mixes with different sauces such as *adobo* and garlic barbecue, as well as the salsa mex burger and chicken steak burger. The menu has also expanded to include beef items such as the choriburger for the meat lovers.

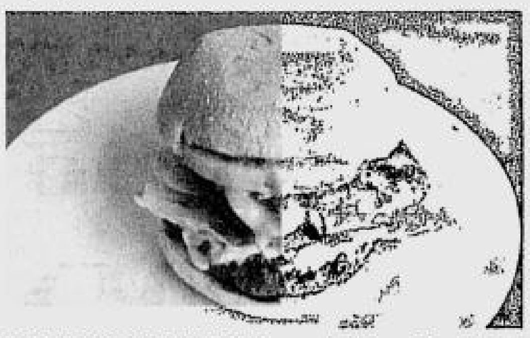
The burgers come in different sizes. The good burger patties weigh ¼ pound, better at 1/3 pound and the best burgers, at ½ pound. All the burgers come in *pan de sal* buns.

It has been four months since Good Burgers opened its take-out counter and response has been, well, good. Residents from the nearby villages, such as Valle Verde and Green Meadows, as well as office workers from the offices along Libis have been the earliest customers and the base has been growing.

At first, Darah and company thought of using chicken while no beef was available but the enthusiastic response convinced them that chicken was the good formula.

"In the beginning we were worried about the reaction of the market but when the clients who tried it could not believe that it was chicken, we knew that we hit the jackpot," she says.

Good Burgers is located at 106 San Jacinto Panciteria Compound, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig; tel. 910-8138.



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GOOD BURGERS

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